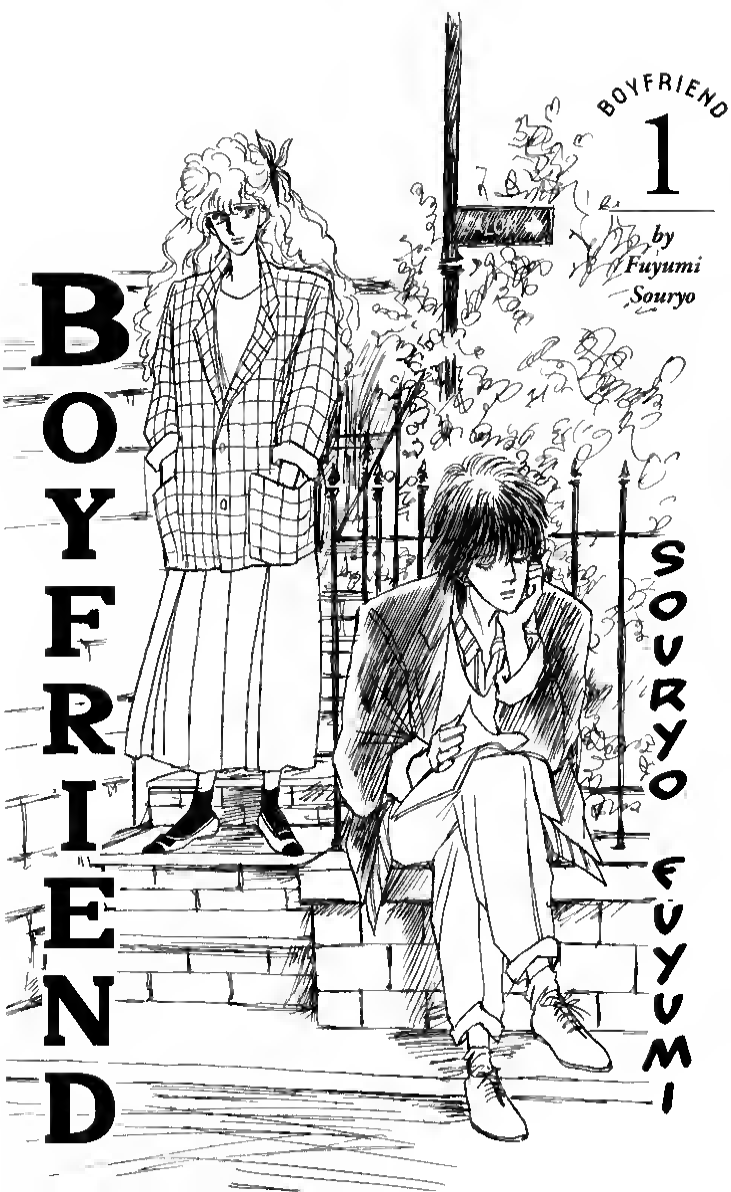
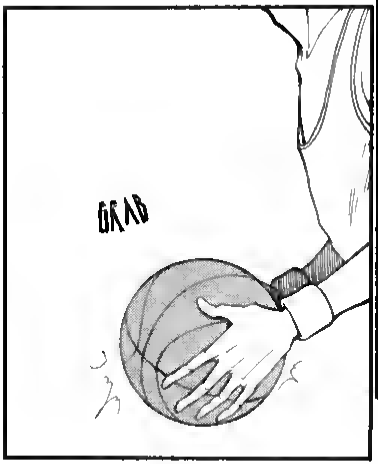
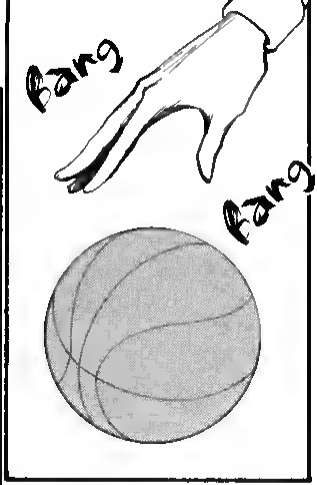

BOYFRIEND
1
by
Fuyumi
Souryo
BOYFRIEND
SOURYO FUYUMI

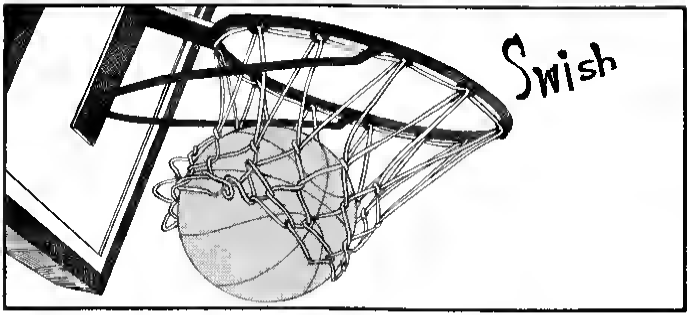


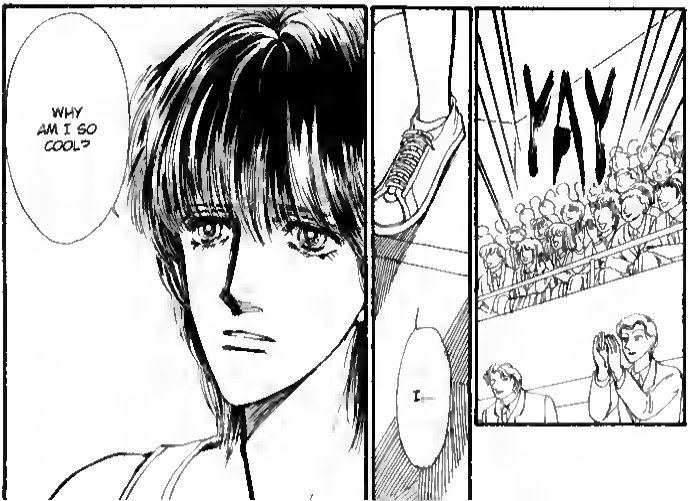

GLAB


Bang
Bang






Swish


WHY AM I SO COOL?
I—
YAY


SLAP
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE COOL!? STOP DREAMING AND WAKE UP ALREADY!
OW...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SLAP ME TO WAKE ME UP...
YOU WOULDN'T WAKE UP WHEN I CALLED YOU. IF YOU DON'T HURRY, YOU'LL BE LATE FOR THE NEW SCHOOL TERM


AH... MORNING ALREADY?
GUESS I HAVE TO GET UP...
CLACK
WHY DO I HAVE TO GET UP? UGH...
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO SLEEP AT NIGHT, ANYWAY...
IT'S SO ANNOYING. DAY IN, DAY OUT...
!
YUCK! I ACCIDENTALLY USED MASAHIKO'S TOOTHPASTE
Disgustingly strong banana flavor
BLEeH
MASAKI!
HURRY UP, OR YOUR MISO SOUP WILL GET COLD!


JUST SEEING IT MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE.
MASAHIKO, STOP EATING JAM BREAD WITH YOUR MISO SOUP.
GOOD MORNING, BROTHER.
"PUKE," I MEAN
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY IT YOURSELF, BROTHER?
DON'T SAY PUKE AT THE TABLE WE'RE EATING HERE
MASAO, TRY NOT TO SMOKE AT THE TABLE
AH... SORRY.
RUSTLE
STOP IT. BE QUIET WHEN WE'RE EATING.


HUH? BUT IT'S EASIER TO EAT WITH MY LEFT HAND.
MASAHIKO, HOLD YOUR CHOPSTICKS WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND.
You didn't have to say that in front of my younger brother's father, too.
AND TADASHI, ACT YOUR AGE AND STOP BEING PICKY WITH YOUR FOOD.
AND YET MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD USE THEIR RIGHT HANDS. MASAHIKO, CHANGE HANDS.
FATHER, THESE DAYS THEY SAY IT'S BETTER IF HE HOLDS IT IN THE WAY THAT'S MOST COMFORTABLE FOR HIM
AND IN THE END, THE ONE WHO'S NOISIEST AT THE TABLE IS YOU, OLD MAN.
WHAT DID YOU SAY, MASAKI?
NO, NOTHING.


MASAKI, WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT AT THIS SCHOOL?
I ABSOLUTELY WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU GET EXPELLED AGAIN OR ANYTHING, UNDERSTAND?
EVEN IF I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, IF THE SCHOOL TELLS ME TO LEAVE, THEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, IS THERE?
WELL I WAS WONDERING IF WE'D HAVE TROUBLE AGAIN THIS MORNING
Sigh
THANKS FOR THE FOOD. I'M HEADING OUT
FATHER
WHAT'S WITH THAT MOUTH OF YOURS!? MASAKI!?
BROTHER, I'M GOING WITH YOU
EVERY TIME DAD YELLS, IT FEELS LIKE MY STOMACH STARTS CLENCHING SHEESH
RATTLE
Stomach me rising


HEY, BROTHER, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE TYPE TO LOSE IN SOCIETY
CLATTER
PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO CAUSE TROUBLE UNCONSCIOUSLY ARE WHAT THEY CALL OUTLAWS. IT'LL BE HARD FOR YOU TO CONFORM TO SOCIETY
...WHERE DID YOU MEMORIZE WORDS LIKE THOSE?
BUT EVERYONE HAS SOME KIND OF INNATE TALENT,
SO EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE EXPELLED ONCE, DON'T LET IT MAKE YOU CARELESS IN LIFE
AH, HERE'S THE BUS. BYE!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ENCOURAGED BY A GRADE SCHOOL KID


WHEN I WAS CAUGHT FIGHTING WITH A DELINQUENT ON THE STREETS...
I DON'T HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU AS A SON. GET OUT! LEAVE!
STOP IT, FATHER. IT WASN'T MASAKI'S FAULT...
Screeeech
RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
HE KNEW I HAD NO PLACE TO GO, BUT HE STILL TOLD ME TO LEAVE.
GROWN-UPS ARE CRUEL.
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE LET GO


OH NO, A DRUNKARD SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
HE'S HARASSING THAT POOR GIRL SOMEONE SHOULD HELP HER
AREN'T THERE WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN HERE?
NOBODY WANTS TO GET INVOLVED
AND I
WHAT'S WITH THESE MEN? THEY'RE JUST PRETENDING THEY DON'T SEE ANYTHING
I DON'T WANT TO SEE EYES LIKE THAT AGAIN
MISTER, PLEASE LET GO OF THE GIRL'S HAND


IDIOT STEPPING OUT LIKE THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GIRL HUH...?
!
PLEASE, YOU'RE BOTHERING HER.
AH.
SIT DOWN
WELL, AREN'T YOU A PRETTY GIRL COME, SIT HERE...
THAT UNIFORM ISN'T THAT FROM MY SCHOOL?
TAKATOU-KUN.
RESTRAIN YOURSELF, MISTER
GRAB
OW!
BUT...
SHE'S YUUKI KANAKO FROM MY CLASS!


YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
AH, OW OW OW OW
W—WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU BASTARD!?
YOU'RE BEING A NUISANCE, SO QUIET DOWN, WON'T YOU?
TAKATOU-KUN, DON'T USE VIOLENCE
IT'S OK, I'M HOLDING HIS FIGHTING ARM.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
BUT YOU'RE HURTING HIM LET HIM GO.
REALLY? YOU'D BETTER BE TELLING THE TRUTH
I WON'T! I WON'T DO ANYTHING, SO LET ME GO! PLEASE!
NO WAY. HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D STRIKE THE MOMENT I LET HIM GO.
I PROMISE!


WHEW
YOU LITTLE BRAT!
YOU SEE?
Shake
NO!
SMACK
CONDUCTOR, THEY'RE OVER THERE
OW~~


BUT I WAS SURPRISED WHEN YOU SUDDENLY APPEARED OVER THERE
HEY... EVEN THOUGH YOU TRANSFERRED TO MY CLASS IN THE 3RD SEMESTER OF THE FIRST YEAR,
.....
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE ACTUALLY SPOKEN TO EACH OTHER.
I NOTICED THAT WE WERE ON THE SAME TRAIN, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU'D ACTUALLY SAVE ME.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.
YUUKI-SAN. SINCE YOU'RE A GIRL, YOU SHOULD STOP ACTING LIKE THE WAY YOU DID BACK THERE.
WHAT!?


YOU SAW THE HEAVY ATMOSPHERE INSIDE THE TRAIN
NO ONE WANTED TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMEONE ELSE'S TROUBLE
I WAS THE SAME.
BUT, TAKATOU-KUN, YOU HELPED ME.
CONSIDER THAT YOUR GOOD FORTUNE.
.....

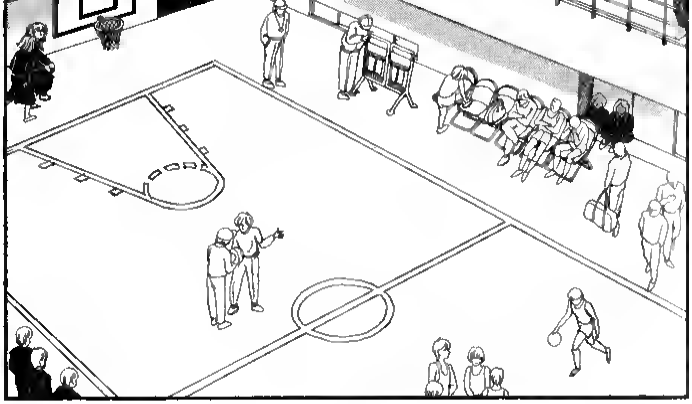

CLACK
HEY, DID TAKATOU COME HERE?
GOOD MORN-ING—
TAKATOU? NOT YET.
RECRUITING FOR THE BASKETBALL CLUB AGAIN, KOGA?
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.
WHAT, KOGA? YOU'VE COME TO RECRUIT ME AGAIN? HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED FROM BEFORE?
TAKA-TOU
WHAT-EVER, JUST COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND

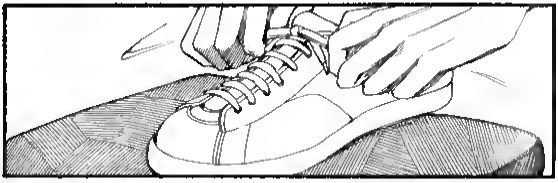

WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER WON A MATCH BEFORE.
NO MATTER HOW MANY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYERS LIKE TAKATOU WE GET AS TEAM CAPTAIN, THEY'D STILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN JEWELS IN A DUNGHILL IN OUR BASKETBALL CLUB
BUT WHY DID THAT GUY COME TO SUCH A NO-NAME SCHOOL LIKE OURS, ANYWAY?
WHAT!?
JUST KNOWING IT HURTS, BUT SAYING IT LIKE THAT...
WITHOUT HIM, IT'S LIKE THE BASKETBALL CLUB LOST IT'S ARMS AND LEGS.
CAPTAIN TAKADA TRANSFERRED!?


EVERYONE IS SPREADING RUMORS THAT IF WE LOSE, WE MIGHT AS WELL ABOLISH OUR CLUB
TO TELL THE TRUTH, TODAY AFTER SCHOOL, WE HAVE A PRACTICE GAME AGAINST MEIWA ACADEMY IN OUR GYM
I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT I FIND A TEAM WITH NO PROSPECTS A PAIN I'M NOT INTERESTED
HEY
ON THE CONTRARY, WOULDN'T ABOLISHING YOUR CLUB BE MORE REFRESHING?
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT JUST ONCE IS FINE. I WANT YOU TO PLAY AT THE GAME
TAKATOU!
IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME WHETHER YOU LOSE FACE OR NOT.
ANYWAY, PLEASE, EVER SINCE THIRD YEAR, YOU'VE BEEN HOUNDING ME TO JOIN
IF WE JUST WIN AT TODAY'S GAME, WE COULD PROBABLY AVOID ABOLISHING OUR CLUB.
HELP ME SAVE FACE


JUST THIS ONCE
!
TAKATOU'S PLAYING AT THE MATCH AGAINST MEIWA ACADEMY.
WHAT!?
YOU'RE KIDDING! I THOUGHT TAKATOU-KUN WAS NEVER GOING TO PLAY BASKET-BALL AGAIN!
TAP TAP
TAP TAP


YEAH— BUT I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING? EVERYONE'S IN A HURRY, AND THEY'RE ALL HEADING FOR THE GYM
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!? KANAKO-SAN?
OW!
BUMP
WITH HIM PLAYING, THIS MATCH IS GOING TO GET INTERESTING
AH— AKI-CHAN,
TAKATOU-KUN IS!?
A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER IS COMPETING. I WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS THIS
HEY, WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS COMMOTION?
TAKATOU-KUN IS PLAYING A BASKETBALL MATCH
LET'S GO SEE IT, TOO.
.....
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP!? THAT FOUL-MOUTHED, ARROGANT, NO-GOOD GUY!?

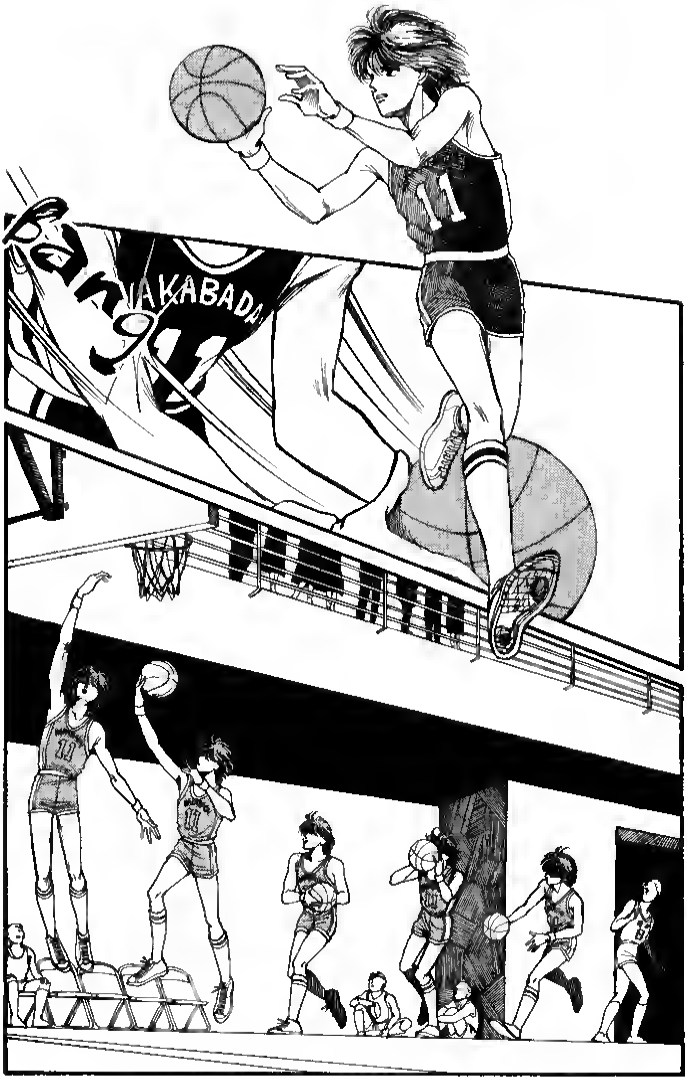





WHAT!?
AH!
Ch!!!
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW I WOULD HAVE LIKED TAKADA-SENPAI TO SEE YOU IN UNIFORM...
HOW DOES IT FEEL? THEY'RE BRAND-NEW SHOES, BUT...
I'M JUST GLAD THEY DON'T LOOK WEIRD.


HEY, TAKA-TOU
DON'T MAKE ME SICK! THAT SUBJECT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
SORRY FOR GETTING YOU ALL WORKED UP
Even saying it made me embarrassed
ABOUT THE GAME STRATEGY...
GAME STRATEGY OR WHATEVER, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS HAND ME THE BALL, RIGHT?
YEAH.
HEY, IT'S TIME
It was definitely harsh!
WASN'T THAT A BIT HARSH?
HOW ELSE SHOULD I HAVE SAID IT?
A-AHH, RIGHT
THAT'S TRUE, HUH? HAHAHA...


KANAKO-SAN, HURRY UP! IT'S STARTING!
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG? HURRY UP AND PASS ME THE BALL.
TAKA-TOU!


Bang!!
IAKABADA


SWISH
THAT WAS SO COOL!
OH MY GOD! WHAT IS THIS!?
CAN THAT GUY BE THIS COOL!? HOW!?


LOOK, THAT'S THE GYMNASIUM. THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME RIGHT NOW.
BUT YOU'RE KIND OF STRANGE TO CHOOSE OUR SCHOOL OF ALL THINGS.
OH.
THEY'RE REALLY CHARGED UP, AREN'T THEY?
YAAY!
Meiwa
Wakaba Dai
45
43


AWESOME! END OF THE FIRST HALF WITH A ONE SCORE DIFFERENCE. IT'S AN UNBELIEVABLE ACHIEVEMENT!
AKI-CHAN, IT'S DANGEROUS TO JUMP UP LIKE THAT
WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENING WITH WAKABA-DAI?
IT'S THAT NUMBER 11. HE CAN SCORE PERFECTLY WHETHER IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COURT OR RIGHT UNDER THE BASKET.
WAKABA HAD SUCH A GUY!?
Meiwa
15
ANYWAY, FOR THE LAST HALF, WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO MARK HIM.
KEEP UP THE RHYTHM, TAKATOU!
IF WE KEEP THIS UP. M—MAYBE WE CAN EVEN WIN. U—UNBELIEVABLE.
HOW THE HELL DO THESE GUYS PLAN TO CONTINUE PLAYING BASKETBALL?


CARE-FUL!
HERE HE COMES! NUMBER 11! NUMBER 11!
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT RELYING ON SOMEONE ELSE TO WIN?
TO PLAY BASKETBALL LIKE THAT,
11
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT


OOH, HE'S DOING IT
!
YAY
WOW! IT'S A TIE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO... AH... WHAT SHOULD I DO? TAKATOU-KUN IS SO COOL!
.....
PANT PANT
HE'S REALLY EXHAUSTED... AND IT'S NO WONDER, SINCE HE'S BEEN SCORING MORE THAN 20 BASKETS BY HIMSELF.
IN THIS LAST HALF, THE OPPOSING TEAM COMPLETELY MARKED TAKATOU-KUN OUT. AND WHAT'S MORE,
..I WONDER.
IF THIS GOES ON, WE'LL REALLY WIN FOR SURE. RIGHT, KANAKO-SAN?


THIS IS SERIOUS. WITH THESE TEAMMATES, WE MIGHT LOSE
MARK NUMBER !!!
Meiwa
Wakaba Dai
56
51
OH NO THEY'RE RAPIDLY GETTING AHEAD.
HE'S REALLY WORN OUT NOW
HE'S WAKABA'S SOLE FIGHTING STRENGTH, SO WE'VE AS GOOD AS WON
RUN
AH.
W-WAIT, THESE TRUNKS DON'T EVEN HAVE ZIP-PERS
BANG
THAT WAS A DIRTY TRICK!
HEY, YOUR FLY'S OPEN.
HUH!?


I HAVE TO SCORE THE GOALS ALONE IF I USE THE SAME TRICKS, THEY'LL HAVE NO CHANCE
!
Meiwa
SMACK
CAP-TAIN!
OOPS... SORRY, I SLIPPED
11
Meiwa


Chill
P— PLAYER SUBSTI-TUTION
HE'S PLAYING ROUGH
JUST NOW, NUMBER 11 DID THAT ON PUR-POSE, DIDN'T HE?
NUMBER 11 IS FREE! WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING!?


WAH!
THUMP
BDM
glare
AH
IDIOT! WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING?
BUT... JUST THEN, ALL I COULD SEE WAS BLOOD...
It was really scary
WHAT NOW? IT'S TURNED INTO AN ALL-OUT GAME OF VIOLENCE, KANAKO-SAN.
IT SEEMS EVERYONE HAS GONE COMPLETELY DESPERATE...
.....
WHAT THE HELL? YOU WERE FOOLED BY HIM!
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL ALSO HAVE TO GET ROUGH
Meiwa
9


!
PUNCH!
SMACK!
OUCH!
THUNK
WAH!
TAKATOU! THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU USED DIRTY TRICKS!
THIS HAS BECOME MORE LIKE A FIGHTING MATCH!
WIN OR LOSE, WE'D ALL RATHER PLAY AN HONEST GAME!
YOU WANT YOUR CLUB ABOLISHED?
SO WHAT? IF I DIDN'T DO THAT, WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN!


HEHARA-SAN. THAT'S SOMETHING THE SHOOTER, WHO ALWAYS GETS THE BALL PASSED TO HIM, SHOULD SAY.
THAT'S ENOUGH. I UNDERSTAND, WE WERE ALL FOOLS TO DEPEND ON YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO WIN IN SUCH AN EMBARRASSING WAY.
TAKATOU, STOP IT!
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY "I WANT TO PLAY A GOOD GAME".
LOSING WOULD BE THE REAL EMBARRASSMENT
I HOPE YOUR BASKETBALL CLUB GETS DISPERSED SOON. IT'S ANNOYING.


TAKA-TOU!
WHOA! THAT WAS A NASTY COMMENT!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? RIGHT, KANAKO-SAN?
.....
NOW...
NOW WE'LL REALLY HAVE TO DISBAND THE CLUB.
EXCUSE ME,, YOU THERE.
WHA?
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT NUMBER 11 GUY, JUST NOW?


TAKATOU...
HUH?
TAKA-TOU?
TAKA-TOU, HUH?
SEEMS LIKE IT'S GOING TO GET IN-TEREST-ING
KAAA


YAAAY
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
SH


TAKA-TOU-KUN
TWIST
WHAT!?
UM...
YOU'RE QUITE A SKILLED PLAYER I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIPS
THAT'S PRETTY COOL


DON'T YOU MEAN "THAT'S TERRIBLE"? YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT THAT I'VE PLAYED IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS...
gasp
I'M FEELING VERY VIOLENT AND IRRITATED RIGHT NOW. EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, I MIGHT EVEN HURT YOU.
IF THAT'S ALL, THEN YOU SHOULD LEAVE.
11


I WATCHED YOUR GAME, AND I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS COOL...
I MEAN NOTHING BAD BY IT. I REALLY THOUGHT THAT WAY
U-UM, I JUST
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY...


YEAH... JUST NOW IT WAS HORRIBLE. THE BASKETBALL CLUB IS REALLY IN TROUBLE NOW...
THE GAME ENDED?
AH KANAKO-SAN
IT'S BECAUSE TAKATOU WAS SUCH AN IDIOT. HE'S PRETTY IRRESPONSIBLE TO JUST LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME
OH... SO THEY REALLY LOST?
TAKATOU-KUN'S EYES WERE RED...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL


I'M HOME
HELLO, THIS IS YUUKI.
RING
SOU-SAN.
YEAH, I JUST CAME HOME.
I SOUND UNHAPPY?
YEAH, I'M FEELING A LITTLE SELF-RESENT-MENT.

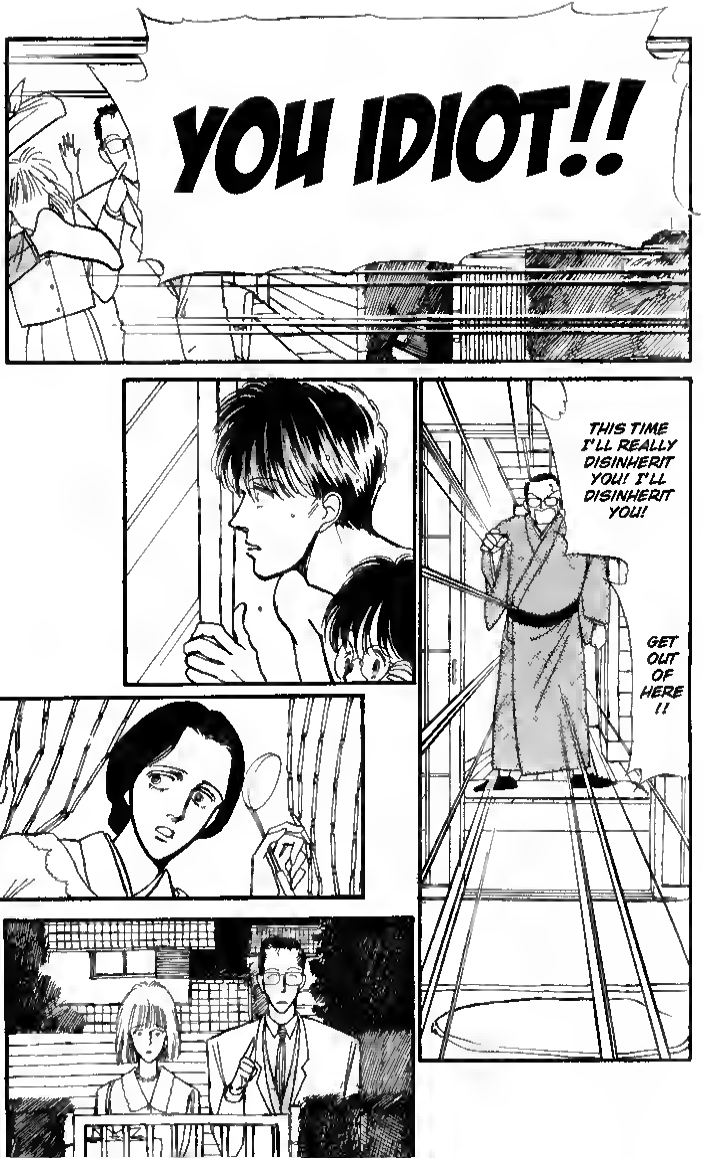

I MIGHT EVEN HURT YOU
THOSE WERE THE EYES OF A CHILD
I'M EMBARRASSED BY MY OWN CONCEIT...
IN THAT GAME, HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT HURT THE MOST
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO WAY TO BE COMFORTED BY WORDS ALONE...
OR RATHER, THEY WERE THE EYES OF A SMALL CHILD WHO GOT SCOLDED BY HIS MOTHER
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP


SHIKI
MASAKI'S IN A BAD MOOD.
WHEN THAT GUY'S IN A BAD MOOD, IT'S LIKE DEALING WITH A TIGER.
COME HERE, MASAHIKO. LET'S TAKE A BATH BEFORE DINNER
RUSTLE
MASAHIKO, IT'S NOISY.
WHAT?
THAT BEEPING SOUND IS ANNOYING.
THE BASKETBALL CLUB IS GOING TO DISBAND IS IT?


THAT IDIOT MASAO FORGOT TO EXTINGUISH HIS CIGARETTE
!
OH, MASAKI, YOU'VE RETURNED?
clack
WHERE ARE MASAHIKO AND THE OTHERS? IN THE BATH?
OOPS— DAD!


HEY. WHAT'S WITH YOUR ATTITUDE?
!
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME MUTE?
OR ARE YOU JUST NOT TALKING TO ME!?
DAMN I CAN'T BREATHE
WHY ARE YOU SO REBELLIOUS?
COUGH
UH
MASAKI!
GRAB

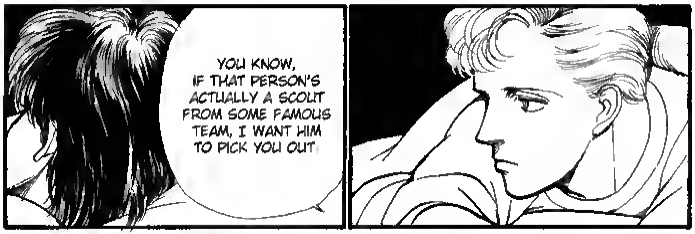

I'M A LITTLE SCARED, TADASHI-SAN
AH, THAT'S MY HOUSE, MICHIKO-SAN.
MY YOUNGER BROTHERS ARE ALSO REALLY GOOD-NATURED GUYS
REALLY?
YOU'LL BE FINE, MICHIKO-SAN. AND I'M SURE MY PARENTS WILL ALSO BE PLEASED.
RATTLE
RATTLE
SLAM
rush


YOU IDIOT!!
THIS TIME I'LL REALLY DISINHERIT YOU! I'LL DISINHERIT YOU!
GET OUT OF HERE !!

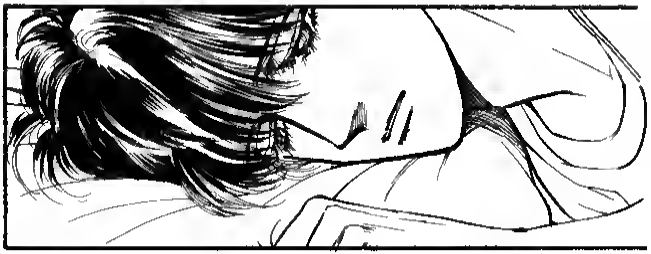

WAAAAH!
SOMEHOW A WHITE HAND...
TAP TAP
TERRIFYING
Fearful Experience
Special Feature
Sankei Weekly
AND WHEN MISS A-KO LOOKED TOWARDS THE WINDOW,
YOU IDIOT, KOGA. IT'S ME.
LET ME IN.
THIS IS A DANGEROUS PRANK THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR!
BUT I COULDN'T JUST KNOCK ON THE FRONT DOOR AT THIS TIME OF THE NIGHT.


I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY DAD. LET ME STAY OVER TO-NIGHT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING AT THIS HOUR?
I DON'T MIND, BUT...
WHY DID HE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME?
ABOUT ME? WHO ASKED?
...MORE IMPORTANTLY, TAKATOU, TODAY I WAS ASKED A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT YOU.
A REALLY TALL MAN. IT SEEMS HE WATCHED TODAY'S GAME.
DON'T KNOW... BUT I THINK I'VE SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE. I WONDER WHERE?
SO WHO WAS HE?

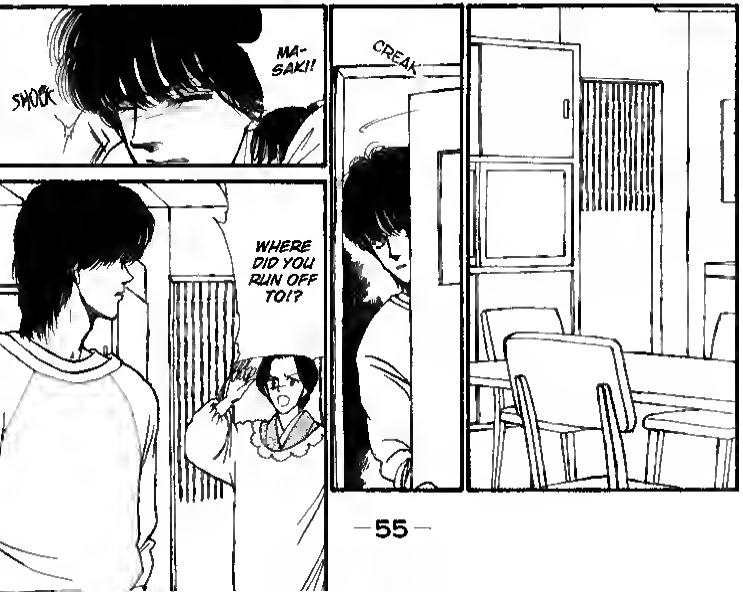

THAT'S ENOUGH TALK ABOUT BASKET-BALL
MAYBE HE'S SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO THE BASKET-BALL WORLD
HE BECAME REALLY INTER-ESTED WHEN I MENTIONED THAT YOU PLAYED IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING JUNIOR HIGH


YOU KNOW, IF THAT PERSON'S ACTUALLY A SCOUT FROM SOME FAMOUS TEAM, I WANT HIM TO PICK YOU OUT

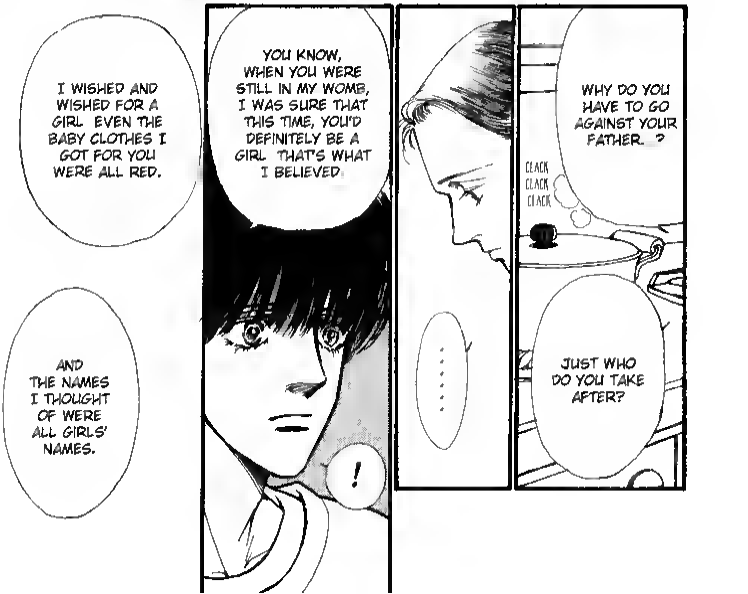

HEY, TAKA-TOU ARE YOU LIS-TENING?
SOMETIMES I ENVY YOU
IT'S SUCH A WASTE LIKE THIS
WHAT, ASLEEP ALREADY ..?
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I GET THE FEEL-ING THAT YOU WERE BORN TO PLAY BASKET-BALL. THAT'S WHAT I THINK
MOST OF THE SPORTS CLUBS AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL LACK ENTHUSI-ASM

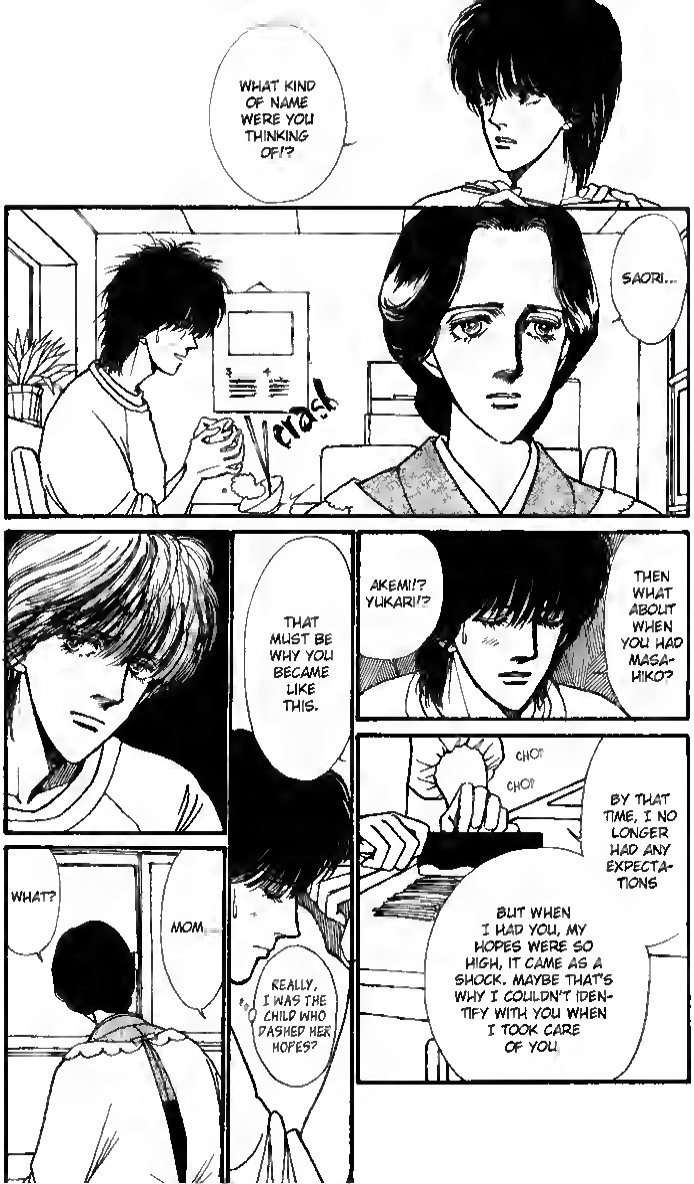




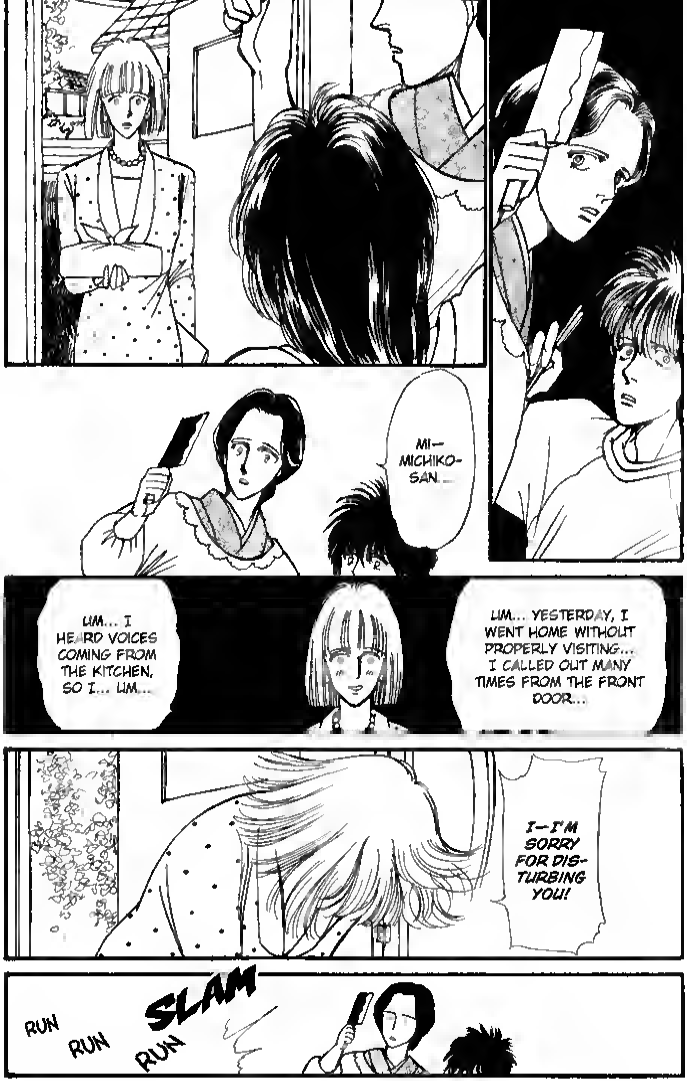

SWOOP
MA-SAKI!
CREAK
WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO!?


YOU CAN LEAVE THE HOUSE AND STAY OVER SOME-WHERE,
SIP
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CLACK
REALLY, CAN'T YOU THINK ABOUT HOW I FEEL? I HAVE TO STAND BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR FATHER.


I WISHED AND WISHED FOR A GIRL EVEN THE BABY CLOTHES I GOT FOR YOU WERE ALL RED.
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU WERE STILL IN MY WOMB, I WAS SURE THAT THIS TIME, YOU'D DEFINITELY BE A GIRL THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVED.
AND THE NAMES I THOUGHT OF WERE ALL GIRLS' NAMES.
!
.....
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO AGAINST YOUR FATHER...?
CLACK CLACK CLACK
JUST WHO DO YOU TAKE AFTER?


WHAT KIND OF NAME WERE YOU THINKING OF!?
SAORI...
crack
THEN WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU HAD MASAHIKO?
AKEMI!? YUKARI!?
BY THAT TIME, I NO LONGER HAD ANY EXPECTATIONS
CHO!
CHO!
BUT WHEN I HAD YOU, MY HOPES WERE SO HIGH, IT CAME AS A SHOCK. MAYBE THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T IDENTIFY WITH YOU WHEN I TOOK CARE OF YOU.
THAT MUST BE WHY YOU BECAME LIKE THIS.
REALLY, I WAS THE CHILD WHO DASHED HER HOPES?
MOM...
WHAT?

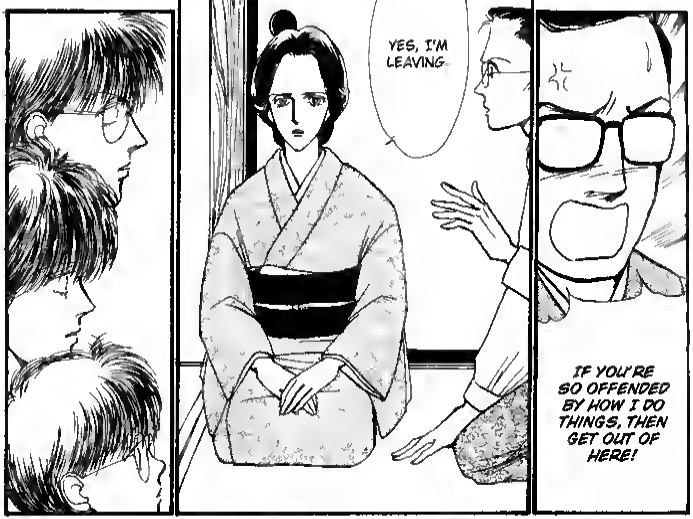

IS IT POSSIBLE, THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH A DIFFERENT FATHER?
MOM!
T—THAT'S DANGEROUS! DANGEROUS!
YOU BRAT... HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING!?
BUT DAD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ME IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN TOWARDS MY BROTHERS!
THERE'S NOTHING BUT HATRED!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR BAD BEHAVIOR!
BUT YOU WERE WONDERING JUST NOW WHO I TOOK AFTER!
EXCUSE ME

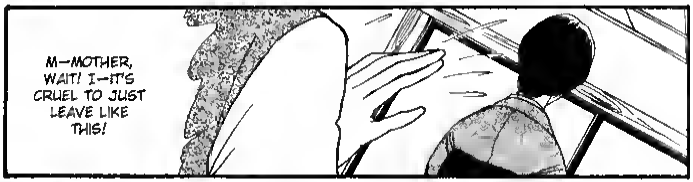

MI— MICHIKO-SAN...
UM... I HEARD VOICES COMING FROM THE KITCHEN, SO I... UM...
UM... YESTERDAY, I WENT HOME WITHOUT PROPERLY VISITING... I CALLED OUT MANY TIMES FROM THE FRONT DOOR...
I—I'M SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU!
RUN
RUN
RUN
SLAM


MOTHER, THIS AFTERNOON, SHE SAID YOU WERE CHASING MASAKI AROUND WITH A KITCHEN KNIFE!
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
TODAY MICHIKO-SAN CALLED MY OFFICE AND SAID SHE WANTED TO CANCEL THE WEDDING! I WANT A DETAILED EXPLANATION!
HOW THE HELL DO YOU PLAN TO FIX THIS!?
I DIDN'T CHASE HIM AROUND... I DID THRUST IT AT HIM, BUT...
IT SEEMED LIKE IT!
IN MICHIKO-SAN'S EYES, MY FATHER'S A WILD MONSTER, MY MOTHER'S AN EVIL DEMON, AND MY BROTHER'S A GANGSTER!
BY GANGSTER, HE MEANS ME?
CAN THERE BE ANYONE ELSE?
DO YOU EVEN WANT ME TO GET MARRIED?


BANG...
SOB
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
HOW CAN I BRING A BRIDE OVER TO SUCH A TERRIBLE HOUSEHOLD...
IT'S OVER! SHE WON'T SEE ME AGAIN!
STOP CRYING LIKE A BABY OVER A SIMPLE WOMAN!
AS A GROWN MAN, DON'T YOU FEEL EMBARRASSED TO LOSE YOUR COMPOSURE OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS!?
BE QUIET, TADASHI. AT THE MOMENT, I DON'T MUCH CARE ABOUT MICHIKO-SAN.
THAT'S RIGHT. MICHIKO-SAN ISN'T JUST ANY WOMAN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "A SIMPLE WOMAN"?


AND WHAT OF IT? ISN'T THAT EXPECTED OF A MOTHER?
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW HARD AND HOW MUCH I'VE WORKED TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND OUR CHILDREN?
Dr don't care.
!
THEN WHAT HAVE YOU DONE AS A FATHER?
ALL YOU DO IS YELL AT THEM. AND MOREOVER, THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD CAN HEAR YOUR LOUD SHOUTS!
AND MOREOVER, FOUR BOYS!
IT'S LIKE "A HOUSE CAT WILL BITE BACK"
BROTHER, DON'T YOU MEAN "A CORNERED MOUSE WILL BITE THE CAT"?
WHOA, MOM'S SUDDENLY ON THE ATTACK!
IT'S ALL RIGHT WHEN YOU LEAVE FOR WORK, BUT WHEN YOU'RE IN THE HOUSE, TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY. THINK ABOUT HOW I FEEL!
IF YOU THINK WHAT I DO IS "SIMPLE", THEN I CAN'T STAY QUIET ANYMORE!
MOTHER, C—CALM DOWN


YES, I'M LEAVING.
IF YOU'RE SO OFFENDED BY HOW I DO THINGS, THEN GET OUT OF HERE!


M—MOTHER, WAIT! I—IT'S CRUEL TO JUST LEAVE LIKE THIS!


I'M AN EVIL DEMON OF A MOTHER, AFTER ALL.

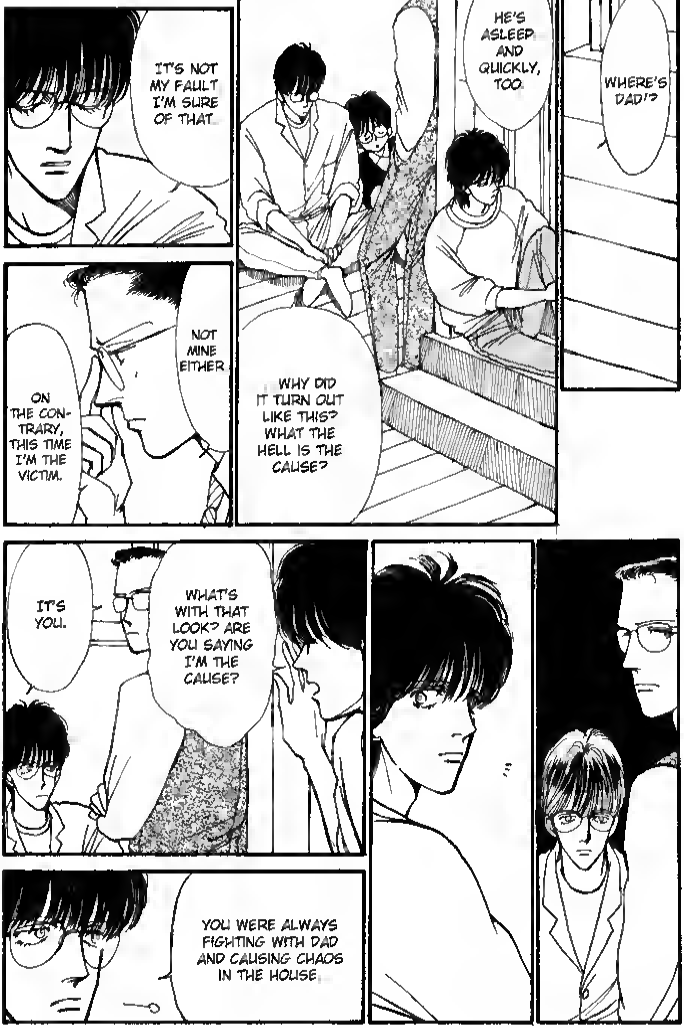

IS MOM REALLY LEAVING?
DON'T KNOW...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, FATHER? AT THIS RATE, MOTHER WILL REALLY LEAVE!
BE QUIET! IF SHE WANTS TO LEAVE THEN LET HER LEAVE! FORGET IT!
click
click
click
DAD'S ALSO STUBBORN
BUT HE'S FAIRLY AGITATED. HE'S TRYING TO LIGHT THE FILTER ON HIS CIGARETTE.
It's upside down, Father
What did water get into this cigarette?
MOTHER! YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING!?


MOM...
WAIT A MINUTE! IF YOU GO LIKE THIS, IT WON'T BE A JOKE.
I DON'T INTEND TO LEAVE AS A JOKE.
FOR 25 YEARS, I'VE BEEN WORKED HARD FOR YOU AND YOUR FATHER. AND NOT ONCE DID I FEEL LIKE I GOT ANY THANKS IN RETURN.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GRATEFUL.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE WHOLE TAKATOU FAMILY OWES EVERYTHING TO YOU.
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE, NOW. AND AS FOR TODAY, YOU GUYS HAVE REALLY MADE ME FEEL AWFUL.
YOUR FATHER CALLED ME A SIMPLE WOMAN. TADASHI CALLED ME AN EVIL DEMON. AND MASAKI, OF ALL THINGS, SAID HE WAS ANOTHER MAN'S CHILD
YOU SAID THAT!?
I DON'T REALLY MIND WHOSE CHILD I AM
S-she's holding a grudge.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YOU IDIOT!?
PUNCH
OW!


WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? MASAO, YOU BASTARD!
HONORABLE MY ASS! YOU'RE ONLY 4 YEARS OLDER THAN ME!
WHAT!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY? IS THAT ANY WAY TO SPEAK TO YOUR HONORABLE BROTHER!?
HEY, STOP IT! MASAO! MASAKI!
CLATTER
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO FIGHT!
AH! MOTHER!
MOTHER!


WAIT! BEFORE YOU LEAVE, GIVE ME THIS MONTH'S ALLOWANCE. THIS SUNDAY I PROMISED MURATA-KUN THAT I'D GO TO THE TOSHIMAEN AMUSEMENT PARK WITH HIM
FORGIVE ME. I'M AT MY LIMIT.
WAIT, MOM!
MA-SA-HIKO
.....




WHERE'S DAD!?
HE'S ASLEEP AND QUICKLY, TOO.
WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS? WHAT THE HELL IS THE CAUSE?
IT'S NOT MY FAULT I'M SURE OF THAT.
NOT MINE EITHER
ON THE CONTRARY, THIS TIME I'M THE VICTIM.
IT'S YOU.
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK? ARE YOU SAYING I'M THE CAUSE?
YOU WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING WITH DAD AND CAUSING CHAOS IN THE HOUSE.


HEY, MASAHIKO, IF YOU WANT TO SLEEP, GO TO YOUR BED.
YOU WERE REALLY CAUSING A RIOT EVERY TIME SHEESH
WE'LL REALLY HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE TAKATOU FAMILY'S THIRD SON.
RUFFLE
KICK
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
SOMEONE TELL ME..... DAMN IT





KCB
1079

ボーイフレンド

by Fuyumi Souryo

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Betsu Flure

KCDX

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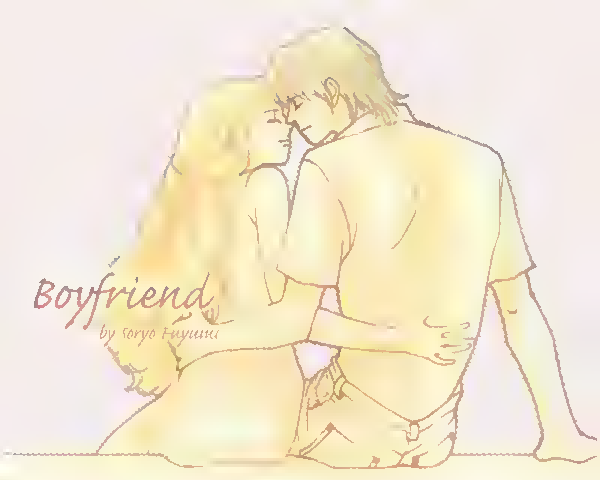
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"I thought he carried a wound so painful, he'd scream if you touched it. The same wound as me."—Takatou Masaki and Yuuki Kanako. The two meet. And are helplessly charmed by each other. Unknowingly, a miracle, a tragedy, called love begins... A youth that shines forever. Definitive edition!!



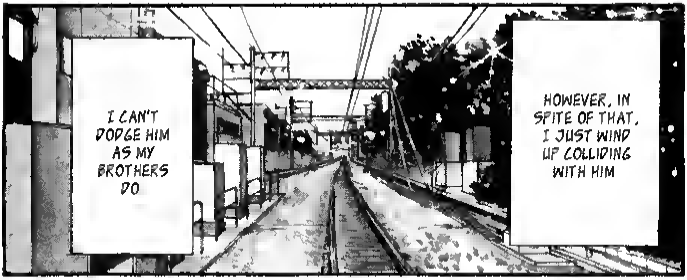


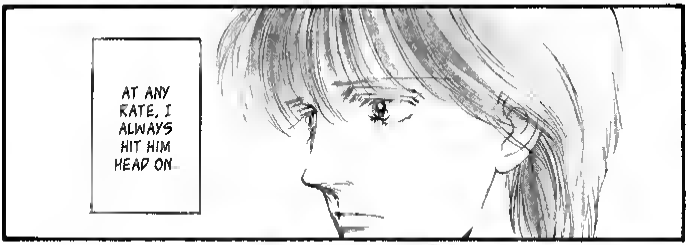
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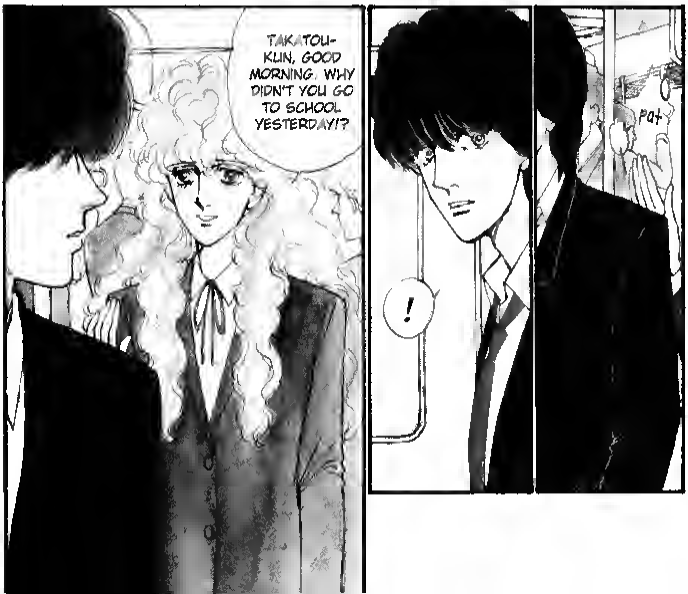

BRO,
BRO!
WAKE UP, BRO!
HURRY UP OR YOU'LL BE LATE.
EVERYONE'S LEFT. YOU'RE THE LAST ONE, AND I HAVE TO GO NOW TOO. MOM ISN'T HOME, SO I LOCKED ALL THE DOORS.
YOU JUST NEED TO LOCK THE FRONT DOOR.
POP
JUMP
OH, NO, IT'S THIS LATE!?
stomp
clack
stomp
clack


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
MASAHIKO, LEAVE THE FRONT DOOR OPEN!
BRO, I LEFT SUNNY-SIDE UP EGGS AND TOAST FOR YOU IN THE KITCHEN
RATTLE
DUMMY, WHY DIDN'T YOU MAKE BOILED EGGS?
SNAP
clatter
LAST NIGHT, MOM LEFT

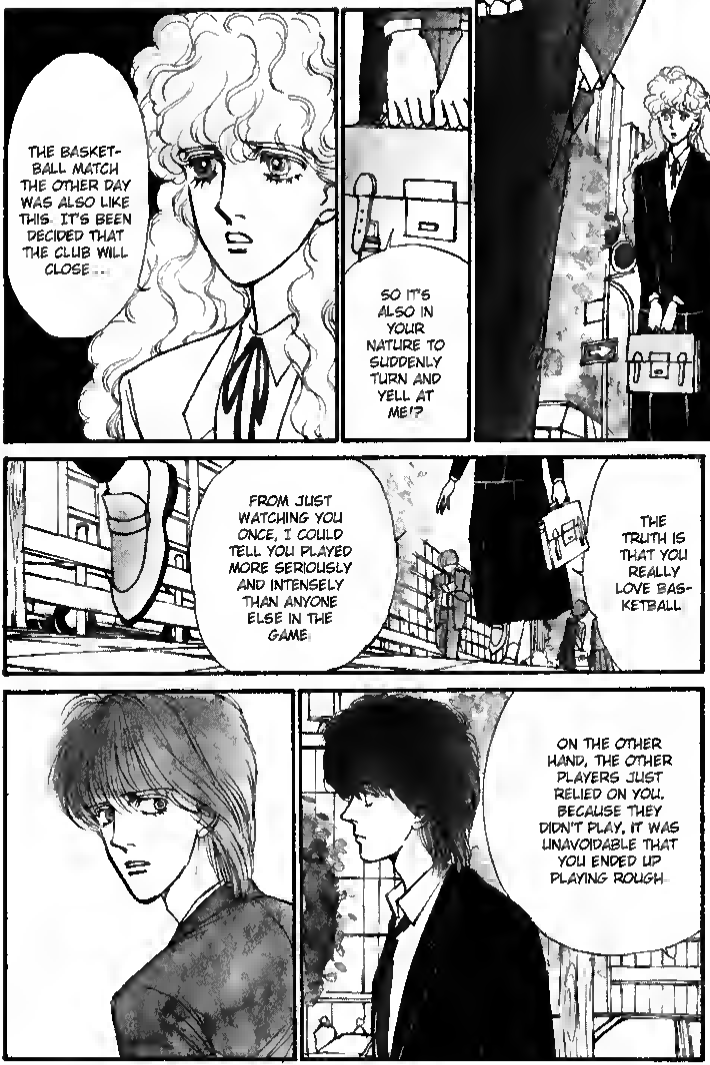

IN ALL MY SEVENTEEN YEARS, I'VE NEVER ONCE WANTED MY MOM TO LEAVE. I ALSO NEVER INTENDED TO AGGRAVATE HER RELATIONSHIP WITH MY DAD
MY BROTHERS SAID THAT IT WAS MY FAULT
HAH HEHE
CLUNK
The door of Track No. 2 is closing
BEEP
SO WHY DID THE SITUATION END UP THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY?
AH.
...
I REALLY WANT TO MAKE MY FATHER HAPPY
rustle


I CAN'T DODGE HIM AS MY BROTHERS DO
HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF THAT, I JUST WIND UP COLLIDING WITH HIM


AT ANY RATE, I ALWAYS HIT HIM HEAD ON


TAKATOU-KUN, GOOD MORNING. WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO SCHOOL YESTERDAY!?
!
PAT


TAKA-TOU-KUN.
HEY, TAKA-TOU-KUN, HOLD UP
TAKA-TOU-KUN.
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT!
YUUKI-SAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT, FOLLOW-ING ME AROUND LIKE THIS?
FOLLOW-ING YOU AROUND? I...
IN CASE YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IMPRESSION FROM ME HELP-ING YOU OUT, I'LL CLEAR IT UP
I DIDN'T HELP YOU OUT BECAUSE I LIKE YOU
IT WAS IN MY NATURE TO DO THAT, AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE


THE BASKET-BALL MATCH THE OTHER DAY WAS ALSO LIKE THIS. IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT THE CLUB WILL CLOSE...
SO IT'S ALSO IN YOUR NATURE TO SUDDENLY TURN AND YELL AT ME!?
FROM JUST WATCHING YOU ONCE, I COULD TELL YOU PLAYED MORE SERIOUSLY AND INTENSELY THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE GAME.
THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU REALLY LOVE BAS-KETBALL
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OTHER PLAYERS JUST RELIED ON YOU. BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T PLAY, IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE THAT YOU ENDED UP PLAYING ROUGH.


SO YOU GOT ANGRY WHEN UEHARA-SAN SAID HE WANTED TO PLAY AN HONEST GAME.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TRULY WANTED TO PLAY A FAIR GAME, TAKATOU-KUN. AM I WRONG!?
SO NOT ONLY ARE YOU HELPLESS AND MEDDLESOME, BUT YOU PSYCHOANALYZE PEOPLE!?
THAT, AND I PREDICT THE FUTURE. DON'T WORRY. THE BASKETBALL CLUB WON'T BE CLOSED.
AND I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU'LL JOIN IT


!
THERE'S EGG YOLK STUCK ON YOUR MOUTH.
EH!?
AND WITH MY SECOND SIGHT, I'LL GO AHEAD AND PREDICT WHAT YOU HAD FOR BREAKFAST. SUNNY SIDE-UP EGGS, RIGHT?
hah hah hah
HEY, YUUKI KANAKO! I HATE YOU!!
I REALLY HATE YOU!


WHAT'S WITH HER?
HEY, SASAKI, SWITCH SEATS WITH ME


HEY, TAKATOU.
HUH!?
WHOA, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE KOGA, SASAKI.
I AM KOGA, IDIOT.
whisper
YOU'LL FIND OUT DURING P.E NEXT HOUR, BUT...
THAT TALL GUY I MENTIONED BEFORE, HE'S...
EH!? HE'S THE COACH OF RYOUHOKU HIGH'S BASKETBALL TEAM?
OW!
YOU KNOW, IN THE LAST 2 OR 3 YEARS, RYOUHOKU'S TEAM'S GOTTEN REALLY GOOD
HE'S THE COACH THAT LED THEM TO CONSECUTIVE WINS AT THE SPRING/SUMMER NATIONAL MEET. WHY WOULD HE BECAME OUR SCHOOL'S P.E TEACHER? WHAT A SURPRISE!


"THE BASKETBALL CLUB WON'T BE CLOSED."
SO THAT'S HOW SHE PREDICTED IT, THE BLUFFER
I SEE
HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO ASK FOR YOU
I REMEMBERED HIS FACE FROM SOMEWHERE, BUT WHEN HE TOOK THE JOB YESTERDAY IT HIT ME.
THE SENIORS ARE CONFUSED, SINCE WE THINK HE'S GOING TO AFFILIATE WITH THE BASKETBALL CLUB, THANKS TO YOU
FALL IN!
HEY! GATHER AROUND! TODAY WE'LL PRACTICE HURDLES
THAT GUY!?
I'M NAKATSUGAWA NICE TO MEET YOU, YOU RUDE KID.
I HAVE A NAME, YOU KNOW.

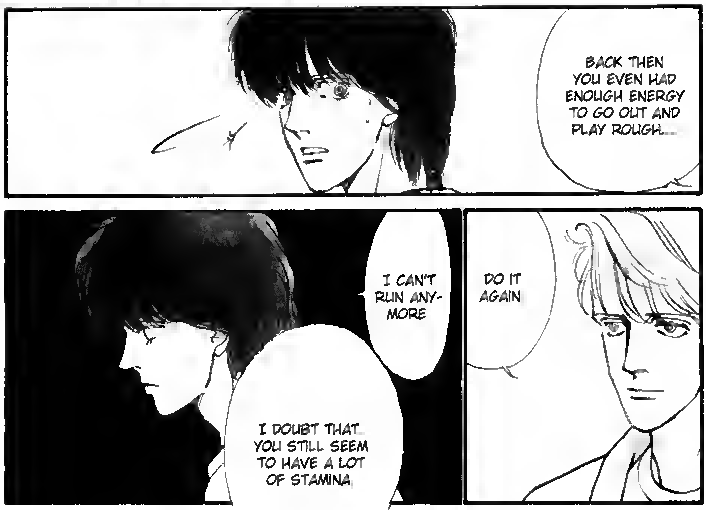

OK THEN, LET'S FORM GROUPS OF TWO IN ORDER OF ATTENDANCE, SO SOMEONE CAN TAKE TIME.
FIRST UP, ASAI, ASOU.
ALL RIGHT NEXT, INOUE, UNO.
HMM, SO THAT'S THE COACH THAT LED THE RYOUHOKU TEAM TO VICTORY. HE'S MUCH YOUNGER THAN I'D IMAGINE
BUT WHY DID HE COME TO OUR SCHOOL?
RYOUHOKU'S COACH...?
NEXT, TAKATOU, TERASHIMA.
SASAKI, KOGA
THAT'S ME


I DON'T CARE LIKE KOGA, BUT WHY DID HE COME HERE? HE SHOULD BE IN HIGH DEMAND
LIKE IMPROPER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS THE STUDENTS?
SO MAYBE HE DID SOME-THING BAD?
whistle
COULDN'T BE, RYOUHOKU IS AN ALL BOYS SCHOOL


HUH, WHAT'S UP?
A REDO
!
TAKATOU, AGAIN
NAKATA'S NEXT, RUN WITH HIM
ONCE MORE, TAKATOU


WHAT'S WITH HIM?
...!?
DO IT AGAIN
!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
LIKE I KNOW!?
crash
WHY WON'T YOU RUN SERIOUSLY, TAKATOU?
crash


WHAT, YOU'RE QUITTING?
I'M DONE.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I RUN, YOU'LL MAKE ME DO IT AGAIN.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE HOLDING BACK. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ENERGY YOU HAD THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY?

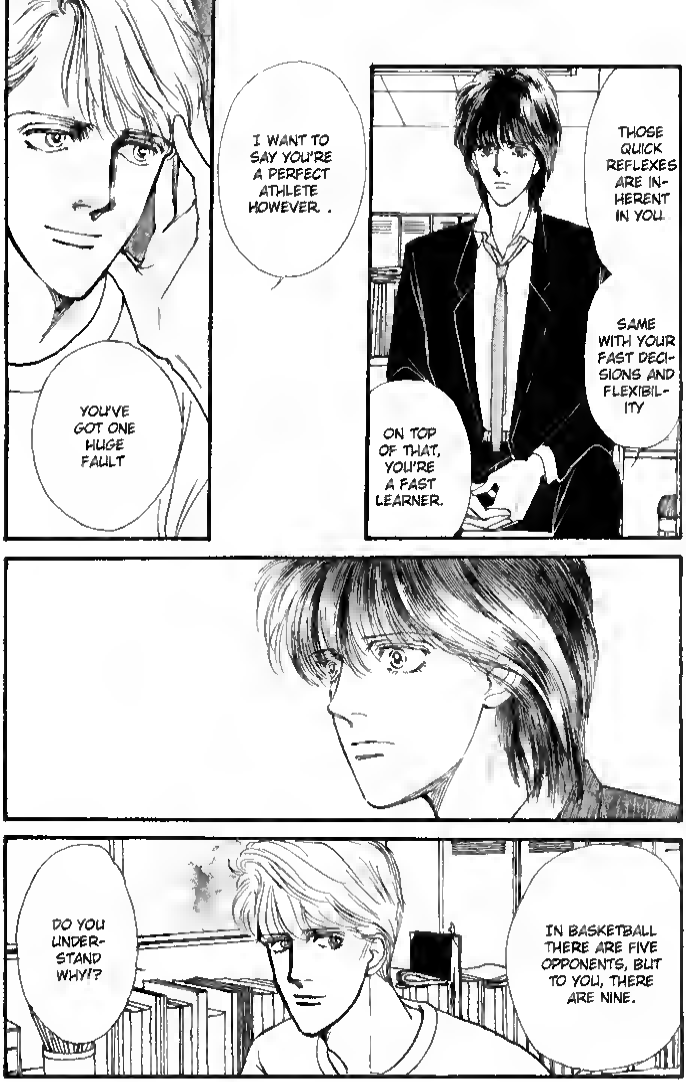

BACK THEN YOU EVEN HAD ENOUGH ENERGY TO GO OUT AND PLAY ROUGH...
DO IT AGAIN
I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE
I DOUBT THAT. YOU STILL SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF STAMINA

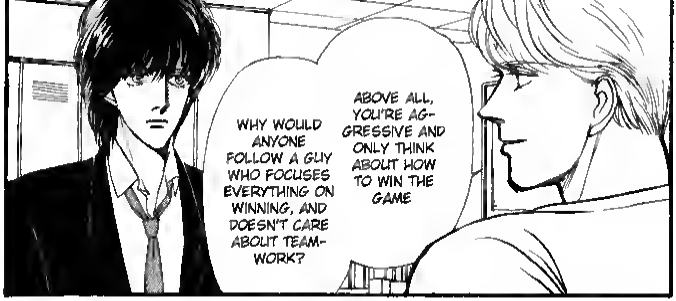

hch!
I'VE GOT MY PERIOD.
I LIKE IT WHEN KIDS JOKE AROUND, BUT I NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO LIE. COME TO THE STAFF ROOM AFTER SCHOOL.
2-C
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, TAKATOU?

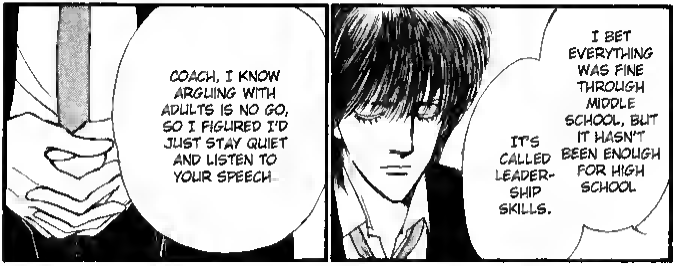

I DON'T MEAN TO SKIP OUT, BUT THE P.E. COACH NAKATSUGAWA TOLD ME TO GO.
HMPH, THAT'S A TRANS-PARENT LIE.
IT'S OK, AKI-CHAN, I'LL DO THE CLEANING FOR HIM.
OH, WHOOPS, IS IT MY TURN?
YOU SEEM TO BE HAPPY SKIPPING CLEANING OVER AND OVER!
KANAKO-SAN, DON'T LOOK OUT FOR A JERK LIKE HIM!
IT'S OK, I'M FREE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTI-TUDE!?
AND HERE'S THE MEDDLER AGAIN.
TOGAWA-SAN, LEND ME YOUR EAR.
!
UGLY.

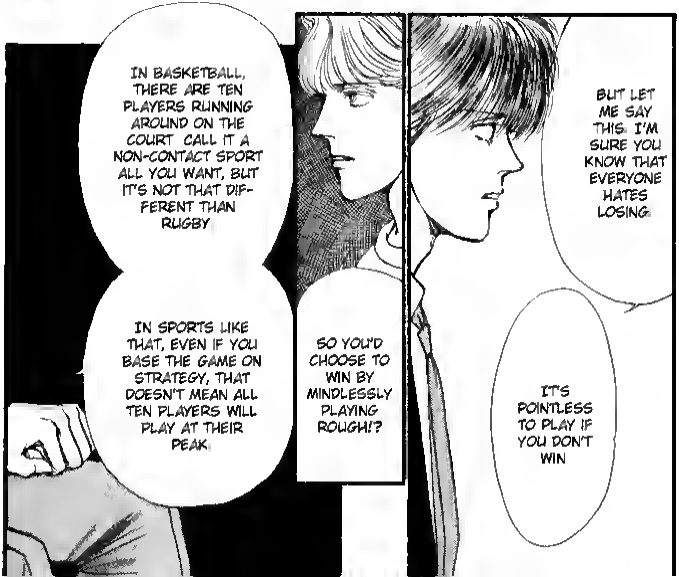

Staff
HI.
TAKATOU, YOU IDIOT! I HOPE YOU FALL DOWN, BREAK YOUR NECK, AND DIE!
SCARY GIRL...
WELL, TAKE A SEAT, TAKATOU.
clack
I HEARD YOU WERE VIRTUALLY A ONE MAN TEAM.
TAKATOU MASAKI, WHEN YOU WENT TO THE METROPOLITAN OUMI MIDDLE, YOU WERE THE CAPTAIN OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM THAT WON THE SPRING/ SUMMER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.


AND A VIOLENT INCIDENT OCCURRED. YOU THEN DROPPED OUT...
AFTER THAT, FOR SOME REASON, YOU ENTERED A PREP SCHOOL WHOSE NAME IS RESTRICTED,
SWISH
REALLY, YOU DO HAVE A UNIQUE HISTORY, BUT...
twip
AH!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN IN A BASKETBALL CLUB. WHAT A RELIEF! THE MATCH RECENTLY...
JUST SOME LINT.


THOSE QUICK REFLEXES ARE INHERENT IN YOU.
SAME WITH YOUR FAST DECISIONS AND FLEXIBILITY
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE A FAST LEARNER.
I WANT TO SAY YOU'RE A PERFECT ATHLETE HOWEVER.
YOU'VE GOT ONE HUGE FAULT
IN BASKETBALL THERE ARE FIVE OPPONENTS, BUT TO YOU, THERE ARE NINE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY!?


WHY WOULD ANYONE FOLLOW A GUY WHO FOCUSES EVERYTHING ON WINNING, AND DOESN'T CARE ABOUT TEAM-WORK?
ABOVE ALL, YOU'RE AG-GRESSIVE AND ONLY THINK ABOUT HOW TO WIN THE GAME


COACH, I KNOW ARGUING WITH ADULTS IS NO GO, SO I FIGURED I'D JUST STAY QUIET AND LISTEN TO YOUR SPEECH
IT'S CALLED LEADER-SHIP SKILLS.
I BET EVERYTHING WAS FINE THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN ENOUGH FOR HIGH SCHOOL


IN BASKETBALL, THERE ARE TEN PLAYERS RUNNING AROUND ON THE COURT. CALL IT A NON-CONTACT SPORT ALL YOU WANT, BUT IT'S NOT THAT DIF-FERENT THAN RUGBY
IN SPORTS LIKE THAT, EVEN IF YOU BASE THE GAME ON STRATEGY, THAT DOESN'T MEAN ALL TEN PLAYERS WILL PLAY AT THEIR PEAK.
SO YOU'D CHOOSE TO WIN BY MINDLESSLY PLAYING ROUGH!?
BUT LET ME SAY THIS. I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT EVERYONE HATES LOSING.
IT'S POINTLESS TO PLAY IF YOU DON'T WIN


IN MY WHOLE LIFE I'VE NEVER SEEN A GAME LIKE THAT.
WHAT I KNOW IS WINNERS ARE HEROES AND LOSERS ARE IDIOTS RUNNING AROUND FOR FORTY MINUTES.
SO THAT'S WHAT BASKETBALL IS TO YOU?
THAT'S MY PHILOSOPHY.
COACH, I HAVEN'T JOINED THE BASKETBALL CLUB BECAUSE I KNOW THAT BASKETBALL ISN'T A ONE-MAN SPORT.
THUD
ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN LEAVE


TAKA-TOU-KUN
tap
tap
tap
HEY, WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HE WANTS YOU TO JOIN, RIGHT!?
TAKA-TOU-KUN
TAKA-TOU-KUN
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!? THAT'S THE WRONG WAY


TAKATOU-KUN, WAIT A MINUTE
TAKA-TOU-KUN
FLOP
jerk
!


rustle
YOU'RE HORRIBLE YOU JUST KEEP TAGGING ALONG...
.....


HEHE
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU


!
fwip
THAT'S MY BAG
FWIP
WAIT, TAKA-TOU-KUN
!
WAIT, TAKATOU-KUN...
TAKA-TOU-KUN.


!
IS SOMETHING WRONG? YUUKI-SAN?
WAIT, TAKATOU-KUN.
I'LL GO TO CALL SOMEONE
WAIT, DON'T GO!


IT'S MY HEART... I WAS BORN WITH THE DISORDER.
SOMETIMES WHEN I GET REALLY NERVOUS, OR EXERCISE TOO MUCH, SOMETIMES MY CHEST TIGHTENS UP
IT'S OK. I'LL BE BETTER SOON IF I JUST STAY LIKE THIS.
IT HAD GOTTEN BETTER RECENTLY, SO I'D LET DOWN MY GUARD
I'M TWO YEARS BEHIND EVERYONE ELSE
!


SO BETWEEN ALL THE HOSPITAL STAYS, I'VE ALREADY LOST TWO YEARS...
DON'T TALK ANYMORE... YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN
YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE YOU HERE ALONE? IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU, WHAT..
I'M OK... YOU CAN GO, TAKATOU-KUN
I'LL BE FINE AFTER RESTING HERE
WHEN YOU CAN MOVE, LET ME KNOW
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME

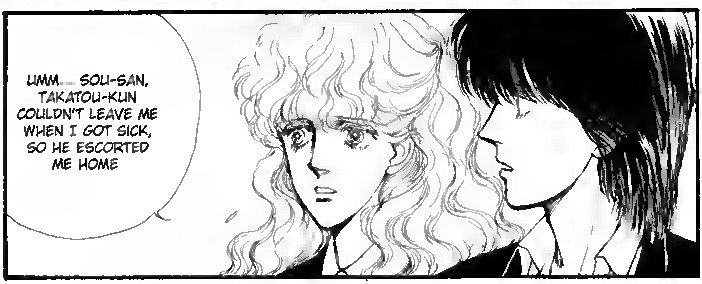

YUUKI-SAN, IF YOU'RE TIRED, I'LL LEND YOU MY SHOULDER
TAKE IT EASY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN.


THANK YOU...


CLACK
MOTHER
KANAKO!
I'M SORRY I GOT SICK ON THE WAY HOME
YOU'RE SO LATE, I GOT WORRIED!
THANK GOD YOU'RE OKAY!


!
SOU-SAN
SOU-SAN!?
SOU-SAN WAS WORRYING, TOO HE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL ONE MORE TIME TO LOOK FOR YOU.
TAKA-TOU...
THANK GOD YOU CAME BACK, KANA-CHAN
NAKA-TSUGA-WA...


WHY ARE YOU HERE ...!?
NO, WHY ARE YOU HERE!?


UMM... SOU-SAN, TAKATOU-KUN COULDN'T LEAVE ME WHEN I GOT SICK, SO HE ESCORTED ME HOME




YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME, HUH...
UMM...
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, SOU-SAN, AND...
KANA-CHAN, WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT SCHOOL THAT LATE!?
ES-CORT-ED YOU HOME
GOODNIGHT. TAKATOU-KUN, THANKS SO MUCH FOR TODAY
ANYWAY, JUST SEEING YOU'RE WELL IS A RELIEF
YOU SHOULD GO TO YOUR ROOM AND REST


...
BOW
!
WAIT, TAKATOU. THE STATION ISN'T THAT WAY. THIS WAY.
LET'S GO. I'LL WALK YOU PART OF THE WAY.


MY HOUSE IS JUST A SHORT HOP FROM KANAKO'S.
YOU WANT A NICE INCIDENTAL RELATION-SHIP BE-TWEEN KANA AND I, THAT IT?
THEN YOU LIVE NEAR HERE?
UM IT'S OK I CAN GET HOME BY MYSELF
DON'T AVOID ME MY HOME'S ALSO THIS WAY, IN ANY CASE.
I COULD READ THAT FROM YOUR FACE EAR-LIER.
!
WE'RE JUST CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
THAT'S WHERE WE STAND NOW


THIS IS MY HOUSE IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN COME IN FOR DINNER.
NO, MY FAMILY'S WAITING.
GO STRAIGHT THAT WAY AND YOU'LL FIND THE STATION ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE.
THAT SO
TAKATOU, LET ME JUST TELL YOU THIS


I MADE RYOUHOKU THE BEST TEAM OUT THERE, AND NOW, I FIGURED IT WAS TIME TO GO BACK TO HER SIDE.
KANAKO'S HEALTH IS PRETTY BAD.
NO MATTER WHO, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM
SO... IF ANYONE SHOULD HURT HER,
THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANS TO ME.


flump
rattle
I'M BACK.
HUH?
A HAIR ...!?


IF ANYONE SHOULD HURT HER, NO MATTER WHO, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM
"JUST A SIMPLE WOMAN"!? YOU SOUND LIKE DAD DID
!
ISN'T SHE JUST A SIMPLE WOMAN!?
THAT'S WHAT SHE IS TO ME
WHAT SHE IS?


WHAT, BREAD AGAIN!?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, DON'T EAT IT.
THAT'S THE REASON WE'RE FORCED TO HAVE SUCH A CRAPPY MEAL.
HERE, OUR DINNER.
YOU MEAN NAKATSUGAWA SOU...!?
YOU KNOW HIM!?
NOT EXACTLY. HE GRADUATED AHEAD OF ME.
DAMN... IF I'D KNOWN ABOUT THIS, I WOULD'VE HAD DINNER AT NAKATSUGAWA'S HOUSE.
rummage
WHO'S NAKATSUGAWA?
MY NEW P.E COACH, WHO TRANSFERRED FROM RYOUHOKU HIGH.
rustle
RYOUHOKU!?


!
NAKATSUGAWA SOU BECAME A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TEAM DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AT OUR UNIVERSITY. HE WAS A REALLY ACTIVE PLAYER. THE YEAR I ENTERED SCHOOL, HE HAD A SERIOUS INJURY AND HAD TO GIVE UP BASKETBALL...
AFTER GRADUATING, HE BECAME COACH AT RYOUHOKU HIGH. TWO YEARS LATER HE LED THEM TO VICTORY, BUT THEN WHY...
A WOMAN...
DID HE COME TO A SCHOOL AS BAD AS WAKABA!?


HE CAME TO CRAPPY OLD WAKABA FOR A WOMAN
WHAT!?
BRO...
A GIRL TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME WOULD JUST SEE ME AS A BRAT, RIGHT!?
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE A BRAT
!
bang
GO TO HELL

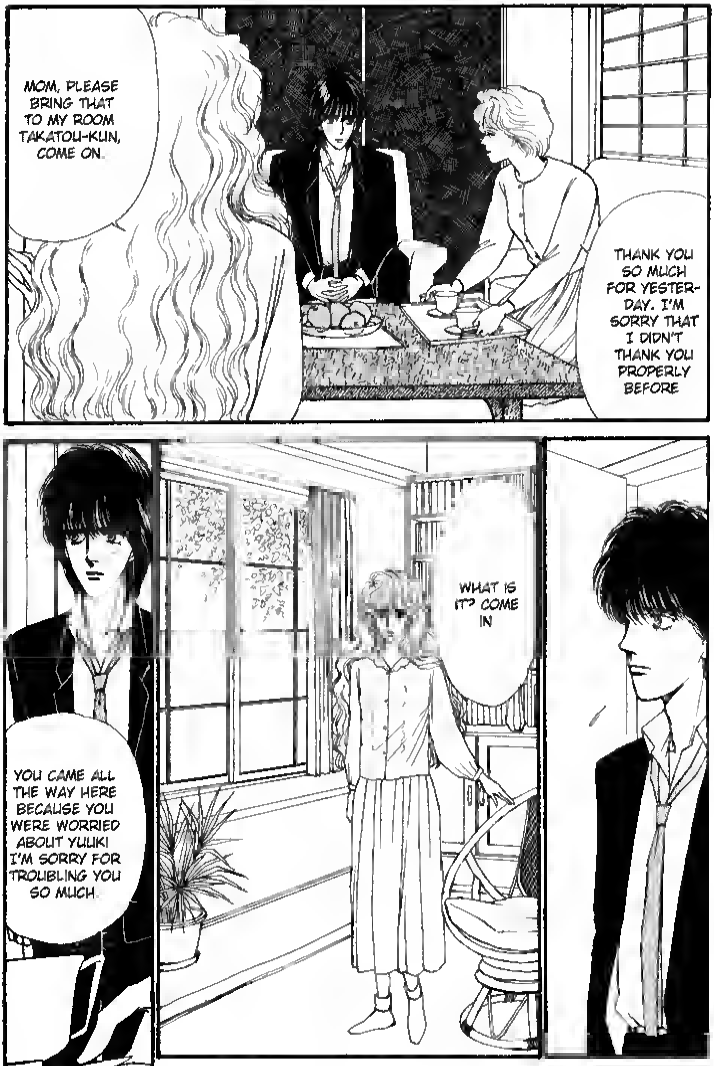

YULIKI
YULIKI KANAKO.
YES.
MORI-MURA
YES
MURATA
YULIKI'S THE ONLY ONE ABSENT.
SHE'S REALLY FRAIL, AND NEVER PARTICIPATES AT P.E.
YULIKI-SAN'S ABSENT AGAIN!? SHE MISSES CLASS SO OFTEN



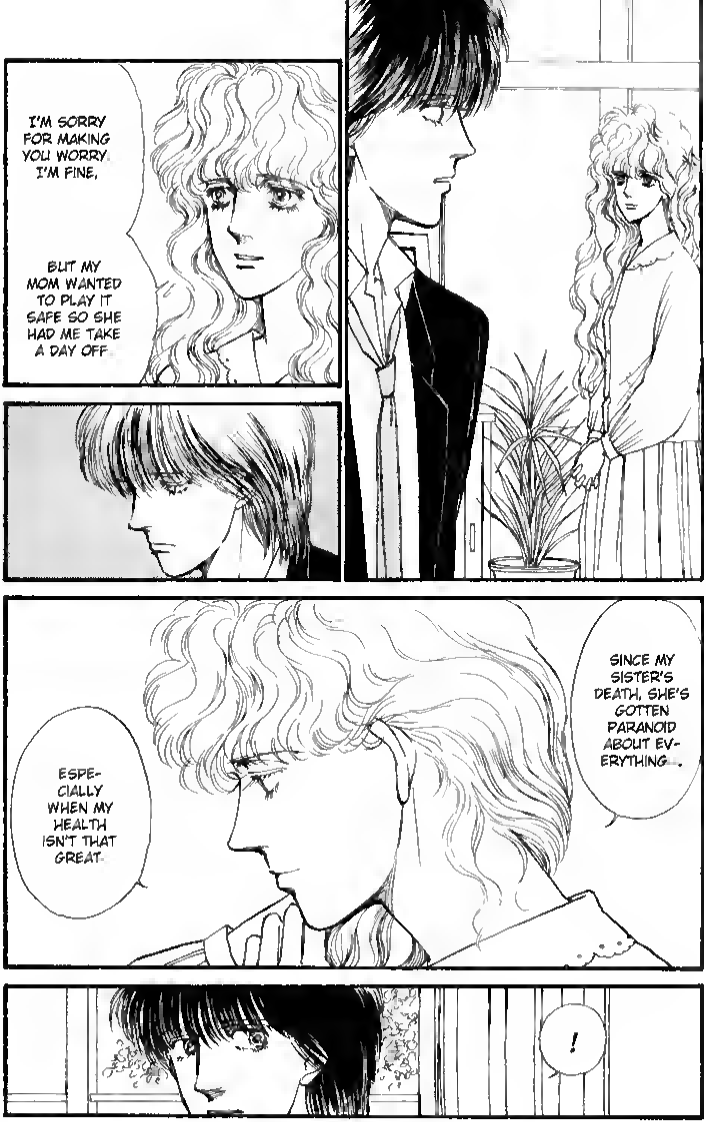

-ahhh-
WELL THEN, KANAKO-CHAN, WHEN YOUR MOM COMES BACK, PASS HER THIS BULLETIN.
OH...


TAKA-TOU-KUN.
UMM, I...
AH, OH DEAR, ARE YOU KANAKO-CHAN'S BOY-FRIEND!?
MUST BE NICE TO BE YOUNG
WELL, YOU WERE ABSENT TODAY... SO I WAS WONDER-ING IF YOU WERE STILL SICK...
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE BE-CAUSE OF THAT...!?


KANAKO !?
HOLD UP, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE.
TAKA-TOU-KUN!
I'M GOING HOME.
MOM


MOM, PLEASE BRING THAT TO MY ROOM TAKATOU-KUN, COME ON.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YESTERDAY. I'M SORRY THAT I DIDN'T THANK YOU PROPERLY BEFORE
WHAT IS IT? COME IN
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT YUUKI I'M SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU SO MUCH.


COME AND VISIT US IF YOU HAVE TIME. YUUKI DOESN'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS, SO IT'S RATHER LONELY
TAKATOU-KUN, DO YOU HAVE ANY SIB-LINGS?
YES, I HAVE TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND A YOUNGER ONE
OH, DEAR, FOUR BOYS. YOUR MOTHER MUST WORK HARD.
WHAT!?
THAT MIGHT BE WHY SHE WENT BACK TO MY GRAND-PA'S HOUSE
BUT IT MUST BE NICE
NEVER A DULL MOMENT, I'D IMAGINE.
BEYOND YUUKI, WE ALSO HAD ANOTHER DAUGHTER, BUT SHE PASSED AWAY IN A CAR ACCIDENT SIX YEARS AGO
MOM, THE PHONE'S RINGING
ring ring
OH, SHOOT


I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY. I'M FINE.
BUT MY MOM WANTED TO PLAY IT SAFE SO SHE HAD ME TAKE A DAY OFF.
SINCE MY SISTER'S DEATH, SHE'S GOTTEN PARANOID ABOUT EVERYTHING...
ESPECIALLY WHEN MY HEALTH ISN'T THAT GREAT.
!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO YOUR HAIR?
HUH!?
AH, THIS IS CALLED A BRAID. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ONE?
REALLY!?
HMPH
MY MOTHER
REALLY WANTED TO HAVE A DAUGHTER.


WHEN HE HEARS THERE ARE FOUR BOYS IN YOUR FAMILY, HE'LL PROBABLY MENTION HOW HE WANTED ONE.
I'M SURE
HER DREAM WAS TO BRAID HER DAUGHTER'S HAIR AND TIE IT OFF WITH A RIBBON
BUT I WAS BORN. IT WAS SUCH A DISAP-POINTMENT FOR HER..
OH, MY FAMILY IS THE OP-POSITE.
MY FATHER ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A SON, BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
REALLY!? IF MY OLD MAN KNEW THAT, HE'D JUST SAY "THANK GOD," AND HAND ME OVER. HE HATES ME.
HATES YOU!?
AMONG THE FOUR OF US, I'M THE WORST.
I HAD TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL ONCE BEFORE.


I'M NOTHING LIKE MY BROTHERS. THEY PASSED THEIR ENTRANCE EXAMS EASILY, AND GOT INTO FIRST-RATE UNIVERSITIES.
I WAS ABLE TO GET INTO WAKABA HIGH THROUGH MY OLD MAN'S CONNECTIONS.
WHEN I WON THE BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, HE SAID, "SO WHAT!?"
"WHAT DOES THIS VICTORY DO FOR YOU!? STUDY HARD. IMITATE YOUR BROTHERS JUST A LITTLE." HIS WORDS DEFEATED ME.
I WANTED TO SHOW HIM WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF, SO EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT TO, I STUDIED HARD TO ENTER A TOP-RANKED HIGH SCHOOL.
WHEN I DID, MY FATHER SAID, "I TOLD YOU! EVEN YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT."
I DECIDED TO QUIT BASKETBALL SO I COULD DO HIM PROUD, BUT THEN I WAS MISERABLE...
I DIDN'T FIT AT THAT SCHOOL AT ALL...
I FELT LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE OUT OF PLACE. EACH AND EVERY DAY I WAS WOUND TIGHT WITH MY DILEMMA...
THEN THERE WAS A GUY WANDERING AROUND TOWN LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, AND SINCE I WAS ON EDGE, WE WOUND UP GOING AT IT. THAT'S WHY I WAS KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL.


BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO INJURED HIM
IN CASES LIKE THAT, THE GUY WHO INFLICTS A MAJOR INJURY IS AT AN OVERWHELMING DISADVANTAGE
BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONE AT FAULT!
SINCE THEN, I MAY AS WELL HAVE BEEN ABANDONED ON THE MOON. NO MATTER WHAT I DO, IT BACKFIRES
SO I WAS ALWAYS ANGRY AT MY FATHER, BUT...
THE TRUTH IS I WAS ANGRY AT MYSELF THE MOST.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I CAN'T SHUT UP TODAY.


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN A GIRL'S ROOM I'VE NEVER TALKED LIKE THIS BEFORE, EITHER
SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO TALK ABOUT...
AS FOR ME, WHEN I SAW YOU STANDING AT THE DOOR TODAY, I THOUGHT I'D MADE A MISTAKE
I COULDN'T BELIEVE YOU'D COME ALL THE WAY TO MY HOUSE...


TO BE HONEST, I WAS HAPPY YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ME, BUT...
I'D WONDERED IF YOU DIDN'T HATE ME, YOU SEE
I'M... ALWAYS LIKE THAT NO MATTER WHO IT IS, THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN TELL WHAT I THINK IS IF I SAY "YES" OR "NO".


I ALWAYS JUST BLURT THINGS OUT AND HURT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.
THANKS TO THAT, HE HATES ME THE MOST
I BET THAT'S WHY... I WIND UP COLLIDING WITH MY DAD.
MY DAD ALWAYS HAS A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ME.
NAKATSUGAWA ALSO SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.
HE SAID GUYS LIKE ME WERE USELESS


HE SAID I WAS A DEFECTIVE PLAYER WHO TURNED EVEN HIS TEAMMATES INTO RIVALS
NO WAY! SOU-SAN WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
AND ALSO, HE ASKED WHY ANYONE WOULD FOLLOW A GUY WHO WAS AGGRESSIVE AND NEVER CARED ABOUT TEAMWORK
DO YOU REALLY THINK OF YOURSELF LIKE THAT!?
HE'S A PRETTY GOOD GUESSER
I REALLY AM BAD AT TEAMWORK, AND ONLY CARE ABOUT MYSELF.


THEN WHY DID YOU ESCORT ME HOME YESTERDAY!?
WHY DID YOU COME TO VISIT ME TODAY!? AND HOW ABOUT WHEN YOU HELPED ME ON THE TRAIN TO SCHOOL THAT DAY...
YOU ALWAYS SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS,
BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU CANNOT IGNORE THEM
YOU'RE THAT KIND OF A GUY

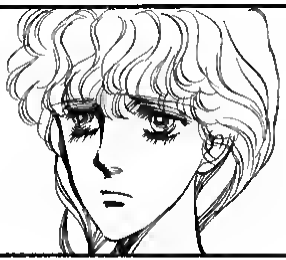

TAKA-
TOU...


THANKS SO MUCH FOR TODAY. YOU'RE WELCOME TO STOP BY WHENEVER YOU HAVE THE TIME
BYE
YUUKI-SAN, ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW!?


YEAH, I'M GOING.
.....


LOOKS LIKE HE'S ATTACHED TO YOU FOR SOME REASON
SOU-SAN!


HUH—. HE WAS ACTUALLY SWEET

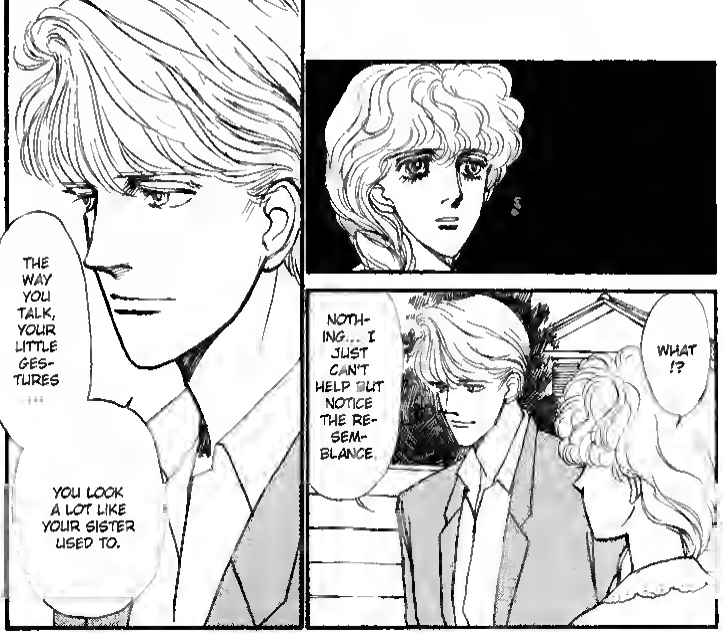



YOU'RE HORRIBLE.
NO HELPING IT I GAVE HIM A LITTLE POKE YESTERDAY, AND ALMOST GOT BIT.
AT LEAST DOGS AND CATS ARE ALWAYS CUTE.
EVEN IF THEY BITE.
STOP TALKING IN SUCH A ROUNDABOUT, CAT AND DOG, WAY
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
ABOUT THAT, I'D WANT TO BITE TOO,
IF I WERE TOLD I WAS A DEFECTIVE PLAYER
WHAT? HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO TALK ABOUT THAT!?


THAT WAS ENTIRELY DUE TO HIS BAD CALL.
AND HERE I REMEMBER SEEING YOU HIT A REFEREE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME.
YOU TOLD HIM THAT ROUGH PLAYERS WEREN'T NEEDED,
UM, KANA-CHAN
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S FINE TO KICK BENCHES!?
TO THROW THE BALL AT THE FACE OF A RIVAL PLAYER!?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE OLD DAYS.

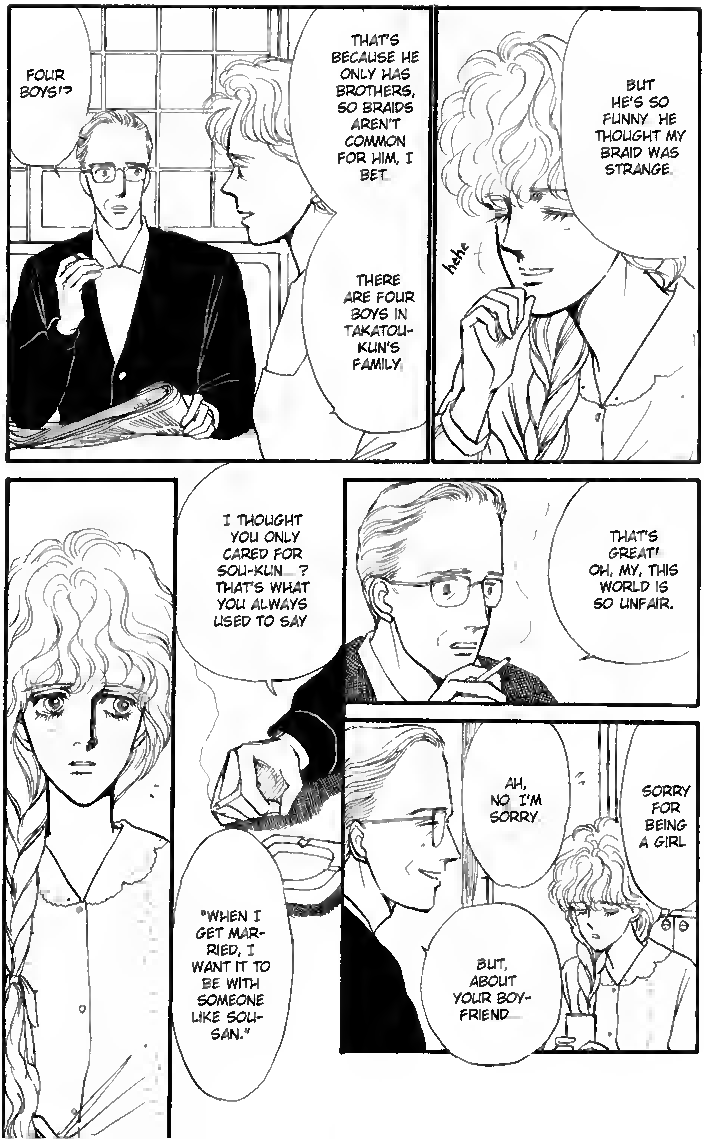

I'M SORRY ABOUT CARRYING ON ABOUT WHEN YOU PLAYED...
ABOUT THAT, I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
BUT FORGET THAT, I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TAKATOU AND YOU.
HOW DID YOU TAME THAT GUY?
WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, IT MAKES ME FEEL GUILTY.
TAME!?
HE CAME TO VISIT BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT MY HEALTH.
BUT HIS BEHAVIOR WAS COMMENDABLE. HE'LL NEVER LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, NOT 'TILL THE DAY I DIE.

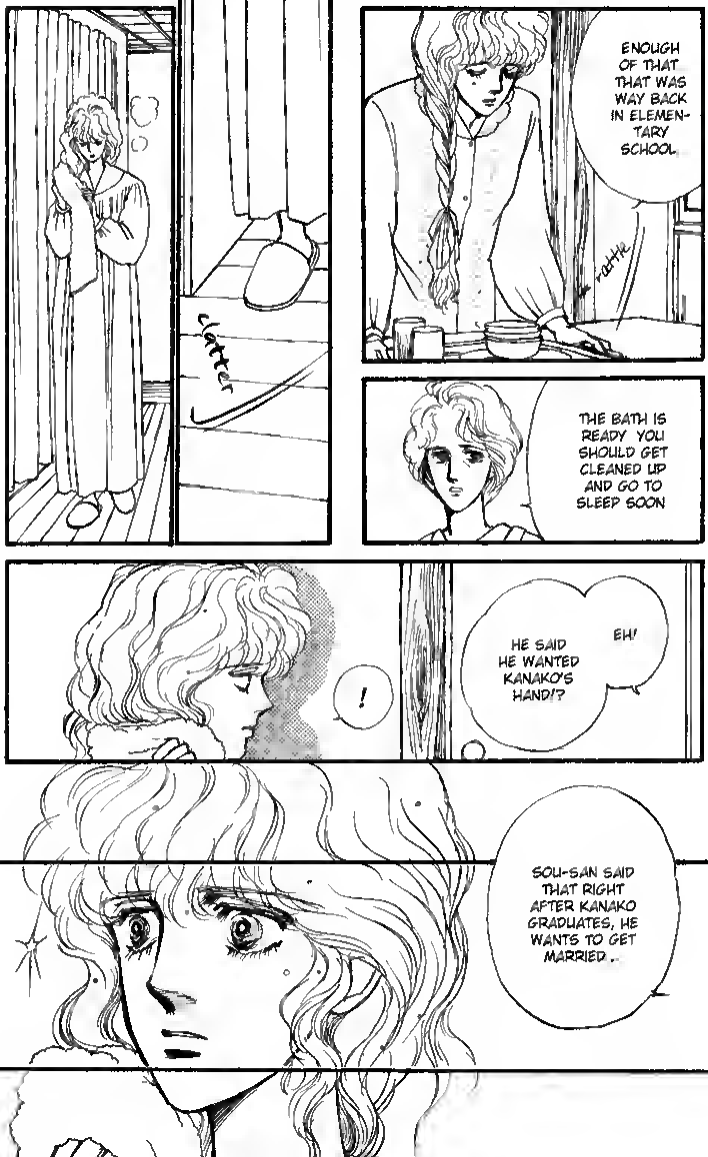

I GET IT.
AFTER ALL, I'M THE OLD MAN BULLYING A FEEBLE BOY, RIGHT? WELL, HE'S NOT FEEBLE.
THAT'S SINCE
WELL SAID, HUH. GOES FOR YOU TOO.
I THINK THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ALSO HAVE AN ATTITUDE PROBLEM.
OLD MAN? YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
THE MORE CYNICAL YOU ARE, THE MORE GUYS LIKE TAKATOU-KUN WILL FIGHT YOU.
IT'S LIKE ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE.


THE WAY YOU TALK, YOUR LITTLE GES-TURES ...
YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE YOUR SISTER USED TO.
NOTH-ING... I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE RE-SEM-BLANCE.
WHAT !?

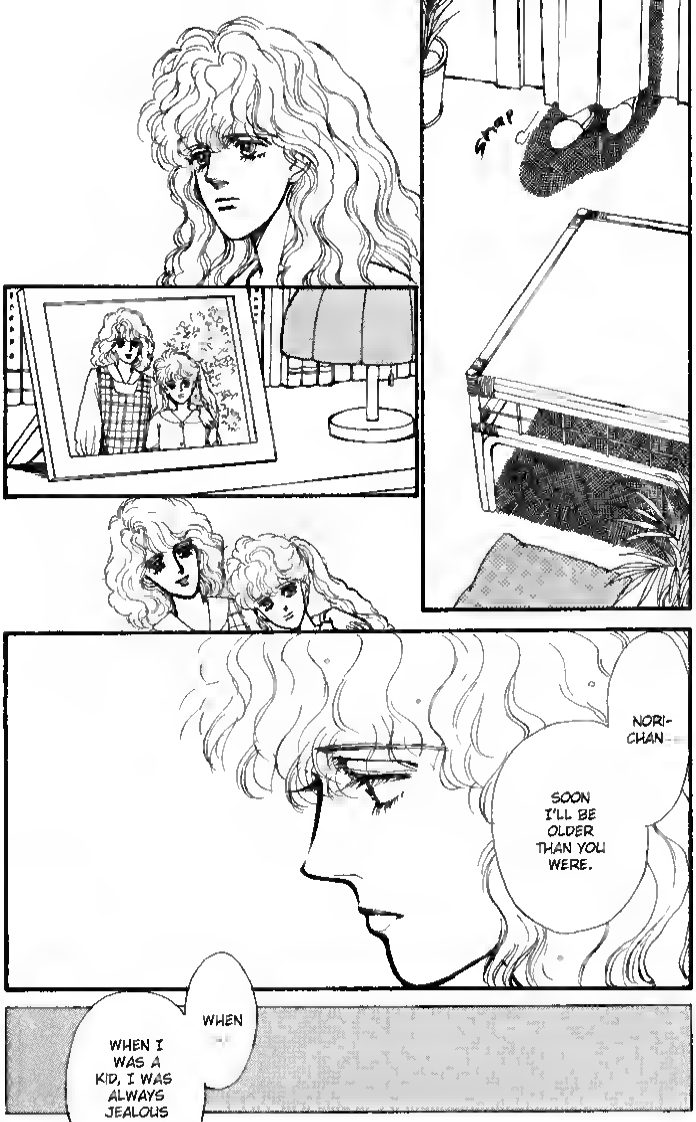

BUT I'M DIS-TRACTED LET'S DO IT ANOTHER TIME
TO BE HONEST, I CAME TO TALK ABOUT SOME-THING ELSE TODAY,


KANAKO'S BOY-FRIEND!?
HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE BOY.
REALLY, EXCEPT FOR SOU-KUN, ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME A GUY'S COME BY?


FOUR BOYS!?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE ONLY HAS BROTHERS, SO BRAIDS AREN'T COMMON FOR HIM, I BET.
THERE ARE FOUR BOYS IN TAKATOU-KUN'S FAMILY.
BUT HE'S SO FUNNY. HE THOUGHT MY BRAID WAS STRANGE.
hehe
THAT'S GREAT! OH, MY, THIS WORLD IS SO UNFAIR.
I THOUGHT YOU ONLY CARED FOR SOU-KUN...? THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS USED TO SAY
AH, NO I'M SORRY.
SORRY FOR BEING A GIRL
BUT, ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND...
"WHEN I GET MAR-RIED, I WANT IT TO BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE SOU-SAN."


clatter
ENOUGH OF THAT THAT WAS WAY BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
THE BATH IS READY YOU SHOULD GET CLEANED UP AND GO TO SLEEP SOON
!
EH!
HE SAID HE WANTED KANAKO'S HAND!?
SOU-SAN SAID THAT RIGHT AFTER KANAKO GRADUATES, HE WANTS TO GET MARRIED..

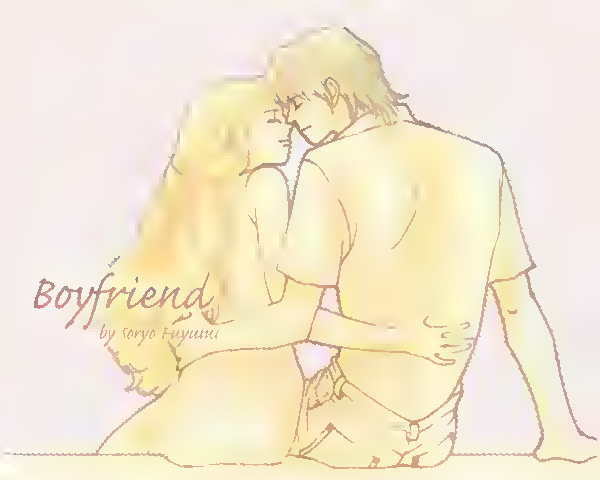

BUT HER HEALTH ISN'T GOOD
THE NAKATSU-GAWA FAMILY KNOWS THAT, BUT HE STILL SAID THAT HE WANTED TO BE WITH HER
I'LL TALK TO HER ABOUT IT LATER, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.


STAP
NORI-CHAN
SOON I'LL BE OLDER THAN YOU WERE.
WHEN
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS ALWAYS JEALOUS OF YOU


I ENVIED YOU WHENEVER YOU WENT ON WALKS WITH SOU-SAN
BUT ....


NOW I'VE REALIZED THAT I ALWAYS THINK ABOUT HIM...





SCANNER N
TRANSLATOR TAN-TAM
CLEANER YOJI
EDITOR DLORI
TYPESETTER KALENDEL

Storm in Heaven




MASAKI.
MM, 5 MORE MINUTES ...
MASAKI, WAKE UP! HEY!
MASAKI
HUH!?
YOU REALLY ARE GRUMPY WHEN YOU WAKE UP
CREAK
FOR A LONG TIME NOW, I'VE LOVED Y—


ARE YOU UP YET!?
YOU WENT TOO FAR, BRO
AAAH!
BANG
OW!
Track two doors are closing
beep
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG


whoosh
CLANG
GOOD MORNING, TAKATOLI-KUN.

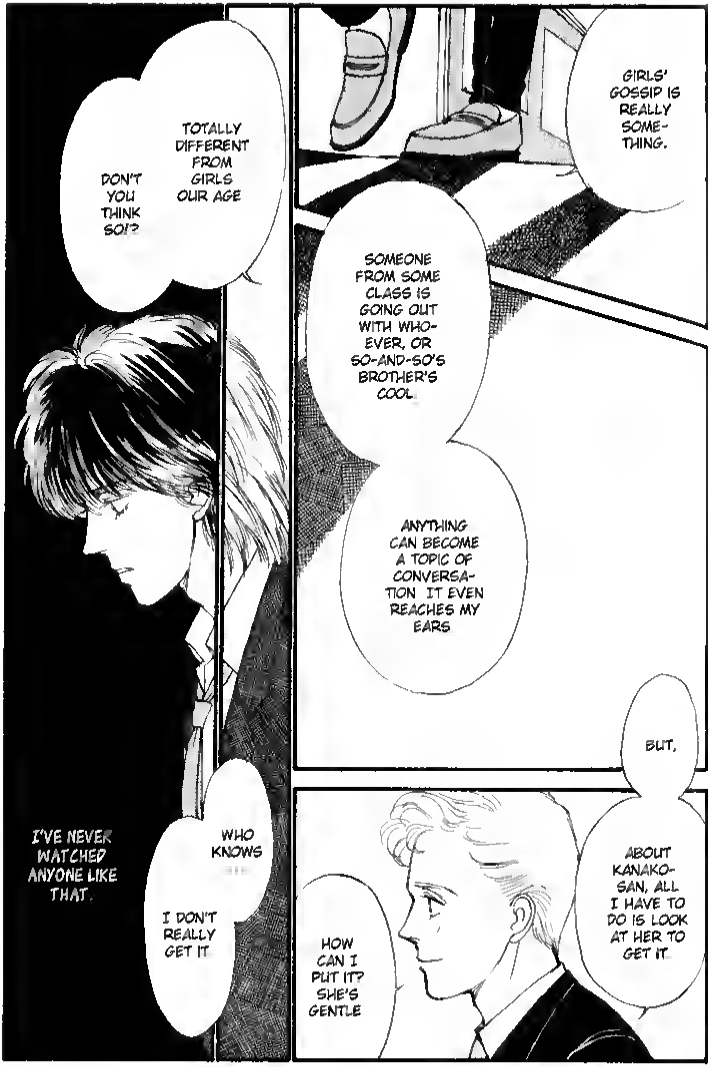

YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR.
YOU ALWAYS JUST BARELY MAKE IT TO THE TRAIN ON TIME.
YOU'RE REALLY SWEATING! DID YOU RUN HERE!?
WELL, YEAH.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU EVER SINCE YOU TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL
I EVEN KNEW WHICH TRAIN CAR YOU RIDE
BUT...


BUT I COULDN'T START UP A CONVERSATION WITH YOU.
CLUNK CLUNK
IN THE WINTER OF OUR FRESHMAN YEAR, I SAID "GOOD MORNING" TO YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUT YOU IGNORED ME.
DO YOU REMEMBER!?
EH!?
I DON'T KNOW. I...
DID I IGNORE YOU...?
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER IF YOU TALKED TO ME OR NOT.
MAYBE BECAUSE MY VOICE WAS SO SOFT...
CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK


"I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU EVER SINCE YOU TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL."
"BUT I COULDN'T START UP A CONVERSATION WITH YOU."
Kanako-san, about reading and translating page 30
THAT THERE'S SOMEONE WATCHING ME LIKE THAT—
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT—
Hold up. I'm first. I'm going today.
Kanako-san, I want to watch too.


WELL, DON'T FIGHT.
BOTH OF YOU CAN WATCH TOGETHER, OKAY?
KANAKO-SAN, THE BUTTON OF MY COAT FELL OFF.
DO IT YOURSELF, STOP TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER.
IT'S OK, LEAVE IT HERE

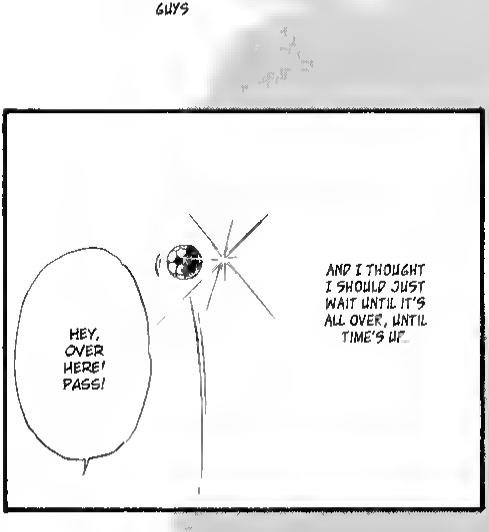

YUUKI'S POPULAR WITH BOTH GUYS AND GIRLS, HUH.
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S OLDER THAN US...
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S A NICE, BEAUTIFUL GIRL
EVERYONE SEES HOW CALM SHE IS AND WINDS UP LOOKING TO HER FOR HELP
KOGA, YOU KNEW THAT SHE'S BEEN HELD BACK?
SHE NEVER TOLD ME, BUT THERE'RE RUMORS...


GIRLS' GOSSIP IS REALLY SOME-THING.
SOMEONE FROM SOME CLASS IS GOING OUT WITH WHO-EVER, OR SO-AND-SO'S BROTHER'S COOL
ANYTHING CAN BECOME A TOPIC OF CONVERSA-TION IT EVEN REACHES MY EARS
BUT,
ABOUT KANAKO-SAN, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT HER TO GET IT.
HOW CAN I PUT IT? SHE'S GENTLE
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM GIRLS OUR AGE
DON'T YOU THINK SO!?
I'VE NEVER WATCHED ANYONE LIKE THAT.
WHO KNOWS
I DON'T REALLY GET IT.

DAY IN, DAY OUT, I GO TO SCHOOL.

TAKE CLASSES.

FOOL AROUND WITH THE GUYS.




AND I THOUGHT I SHOULD JUST WAIT UNTIL I GREW INTO A TYPICAL ADULT...
There!
TIME'S FLOWN BY WITHOUT ANYTHING HAPPENING
GUYS WHO STAND OUT TEND TO GET IN TROUBLE...
...THAT'S WHY...

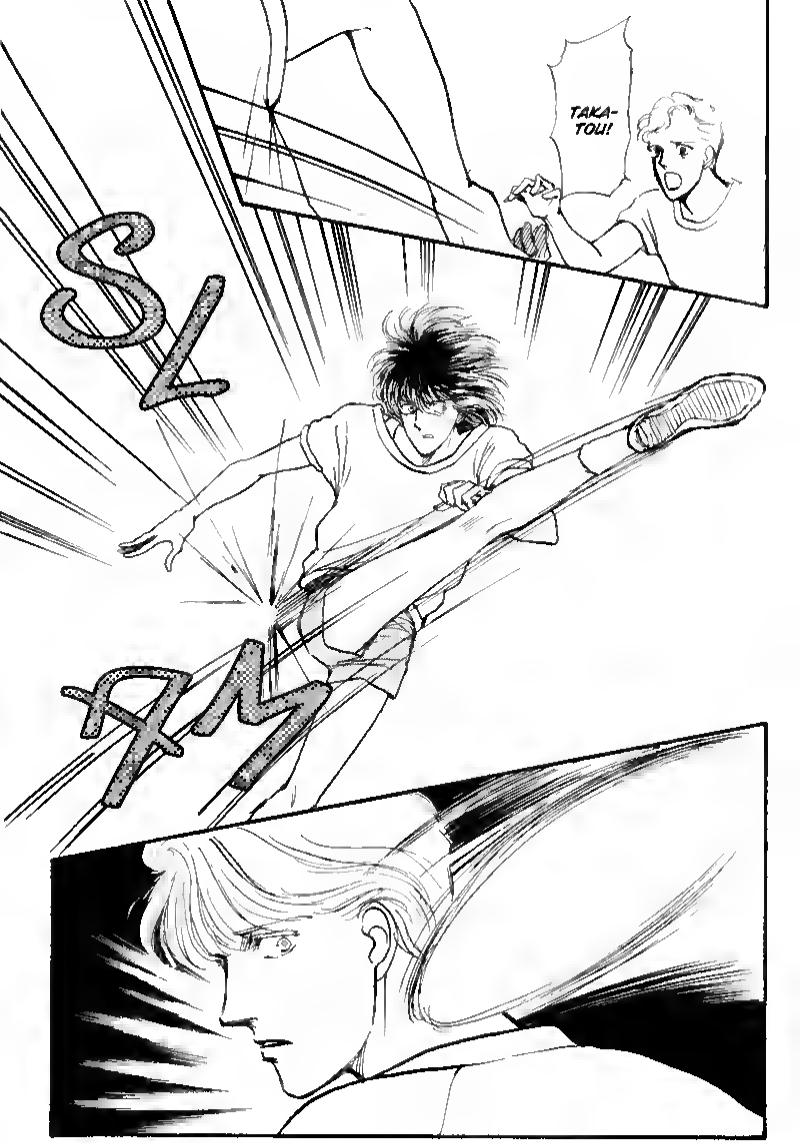

AH!
HERE YOU ARE, TAKATOU!
PUMP
HEY, YOU CAUGHT THE BALL!
OH CRAP, IT'S SOCCER


WHAT WERE YOU SPACING OUT FOR, TAKATOU!?
WE'RE NOT PLAYING BASKETBALL RIGHT NOW!
HAH!
OR WERE YOU JUST SO ENTHRALLED BY THE GIRLS' TRACK UNIFORMS!?
"I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE TYPE TO LOSE IN SOCIETY"
YEAH.
I WAS ENTHRALLED...
BY HER LONG WAVY HAIR


ARE YOU TAKING THIS CLASS SERIOUSLY!?
OF COURSE NOT.
"YOU CAUSE TROUBLE UNCONSCIOUSLY"
I HATE YOU AND YOU HATE ME.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THIS CLASS


GUYS LIKE YOU ARE QUICK-TEMPERED, AND RUSH INTO THINGS LIKE THAT...
IT'S JUST YOUR NATURE, REALLY
QUITE A CUTE LITTLE FACE YOU MADE THERE...


BANG
HEY, TAKATOU, HURRY AND APOLOGIZE TO HIM.
I CAN'T STAND YOU WASTING MY TIME EITHER
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY CLASS, THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE PART IN IT IT'S OK

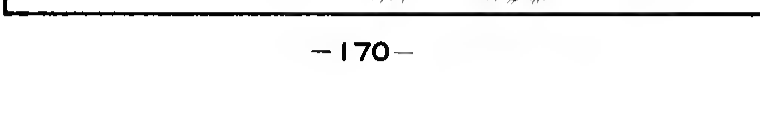

TAKA-
TOU!
SL
AM


WATCH OUT, COACH!


TAP
FUMP
AH..
!

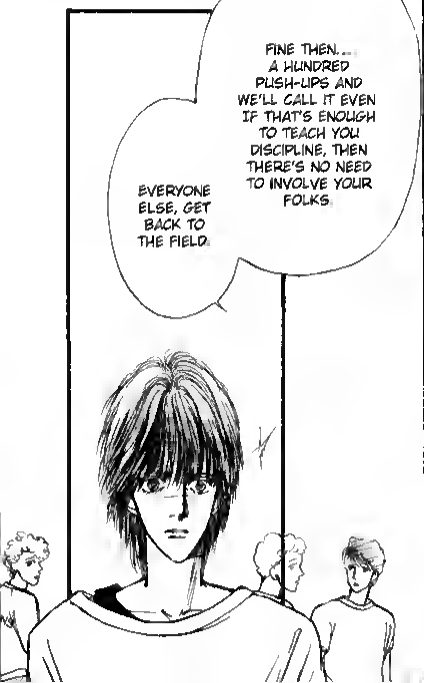

ON MY COACH'S ADVICE, I PLAYED SOCCER IN THE OFF-SEASON WHEN I WAS A STUDENT.
UNLIKE BASKETBALL, I ALSO LEARNT A LOT FROM SPORTS WHERE PLAYERS DON'T USE THEIR HANDS.


FOCUSING ON YOUR STRONG SUITE IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT THEN YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN MOMENTUM.
PEOPLE HAVE TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS. ESPECIALLY YOU!




SO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU...
ONE LITTLE MISTAKE AND YOU GET VIO-LENT?


DISCI-PLINE OR SUSPEND ME, I DON'T CARE


FINE THEN... A HUNDRED PUSH-UPS AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN IF THAT'S ENOUGH TO TEACH YOU DISCIPLINE, THEN THERE'S NO NEED TO INVOLVE YOUR FOLKS.
EVERYONE ELSE, GET BACK TO THE FIELD.


DO IT AND WE'RE EVEN, FINE. I'M GOING.
WHAT, DON'T YOU WANT TO GET STARTED?
THUD
ONE


TWO
THREE
YOU SAID I HATED YOU
TRUE ENOUGH, WE'VE BUTTED HEADS FROM THE START.
I'M COUNT-ING. NOW LISTEN!
DON'T TALK TO ME,
I'LL LOSE COUNT
TAKATOU, YOU MUST THINK I'M A CRUEL OLD MAN.


BUT I DIDN'T MOCK YOU BECAUSE I HATE YOU. I'M ACTING WITH YOUR INTERESTS AT HEART
LIAR. BULLYING ME MAKES YOU HAPPY.
WHAT!?
COACH, WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, YOU JUST DON'T LIKE ME.


YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT TYPE OF A GUY!?
I DO.
BECAUSE I GOT CLOSE TO YOUR KANA-CHAN
BECAUSE I'M NOT THE PLAYER YOU WANT ME TO BE, AND...
LET'S MAKE THAT 200 PUSH-UPS


SO YOU WON'T MAKE ANY MIS-TAKES
DON'T WORRY, I'LL COUNT EVERY LAST ONE
WELL, EVERY-ONE, THAT'S ALL
ding dong ding dong
SHIT!


AHH Don't wipe on me!
THOSE TWO ARE REALLY STRANGE
TAKA-TOU AND NAKA-TSUGA-WA.
THAT QUARREL'S NOT NORMAL. THEY'RE SPEAKING IN PRIVATE AGAIN
TAKATOU MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING BEHIND HIS BACK, TO GET INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM SO EASILY.


WHAT'S WRONG!? YOU CAN'T HOLD THAT POSE FOREVER.
YOU STILL HAVE TWO LEFT
drip
drip
drip
GHG


LAST ONE, GO FOR IT
tremble tremble tremble
GULP
OKAY, THAT'S GOOD.


Hoo
Hoo


ONE DAY...
ONE DAY I'LL SLUG YOU GOOD.
ONE DAY, I SWEAR


IF HE DOESN'T THINK I'M STRICT, HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME
I'M THE ONE WHO NEARLY GOT A SERIOUS CONCUS-SION
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM!?
EX-ACT-LY...
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM THERE.
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? HE'S FAINTED


THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN CARRY HIM
OR DO YOU WANT TO WAKE HIM UP, AFTER HE PASSED OUT FROM EXHAUSTION?
!
AT HIS AGE, HE'LL JUST SLEEP FOR A BIT AND WAKE UP ALL BETTER.
HE'S NOT A BABY. WHEN HE CAN MOVE, HE'LL GET UP BY HIMSELF.
...YOU WENT TOO FAR, MAKING HIM PASS OUT...
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D ACTUALLY GO THAT FAR...


I WAS GOING TO LET HIM GO AT THE FIRST WORD OF COMPLAINT.
BUT HE...
DING DONG
School is dismissed
HE HAS EXTRAORDINARY STAMINA IT.. SURPRISED ME
LOOKS LIKE DEALING WITH HIM REQUIRES THE SAME LEVEL OF RESOLUTION.


CALL IT GOOD OR BAD, BUT HE'S NOT ONE TO LET HIS FOCUS WAVER.




WHAT'S WITH THAT SHIRT? WHERE'S YOUR UNIFORM!?
NO ONE WASHED IT, SO I HAD NO CHOICE
I'LL HAVE ONE CLEAN AND READY FOR TOMORROW.
WASHED IT...? WHAT, YOUR MOM'S NOT IN THE PICTURE?


AH... I SEE
HUH. YOUR FAMILY'S COMPLI-CATED.
NOT REALLY, IT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH. IT'S JUST THAT MY MOM GAVE UP ON MY DAD.
SHE WAS, BUT SHE WENT BACK TO MY GRAND-FATHER'S HOUSE
tremble
OW.
LOOKS PAINFUL... THOSE SORE MUSCLES


FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, IT'S A WELCOME PAIN
AND EVEN WHEN YOU WIN, THAT INTOXICATING VICTORY LASTS JUST A MOMENT. THEN YOU'RE BACK TO TRAINING.
I DO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, YOU KNOW.
IT'S TIRING. YOU TRAIN DAY IN, DAY OUT. THERE ARE DAYS YOU CAN'T SLEEP BECAUSE OF SORE MUSCLES AND CRAMPS.
TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT AND STILL LOSE WOULD BE UNBEARABLE.


IT WASN'T UNTIL I RUINED MY LEGS THAT I CAME TO MY SENSES.
WHEN I THINK OF IT NOW, IT'S A WONDER WHY I WAS SO OBSESSED WITH IT.
A GAME WHERE YOU THROW A BALL INTO A RAISED BASKET.
THERE WERE SO MANY OTHER THINGS I COULD HAVE DONE, BUT I WAS A FOOL, JUST THINKING ABOUT TRAINING AND MORE TRAINING.
IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT YOU JUST GOT TIRED OF IT.

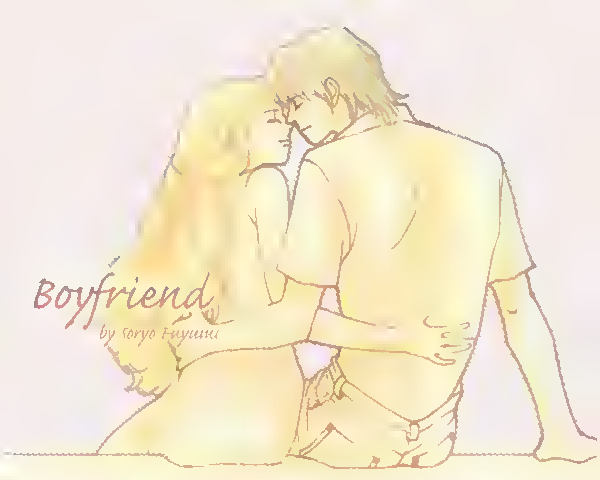

I...
NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A PLAYER ON THE NATIONAL TEAM WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THAT WAS IN THE PAST
THERE'S NO BASKETBALL IN ME, NOW THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO YOU, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO BASKETBALL..?
IF YOU STILL HAD THE FEVER IN YOU, YOU'D BE RUNNING ON THE COURT, BUT YOU'RE NOT.
THERE'S NO BASKETBALL IN YOU.
THAT'S ENOUGH!


I'M ALWAYS DREAMING ABOUT THE MOMENT I SCORE A GOAL!
I'M RUNNING IN MY DREAMS!
BUT YOU WON'T LET ME, WILL YOU!?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I WAS USELESS, COACH!
WHEN DID I SAY YOU WERE USELESS?
I WANT YOU ON THE TEAM MORE THAN YOU COULD KNOW...


GO TO THE CLUB ROOM AFTER SCHOOL.
MAKE SURE YOU DROP BY
BOY'S BAS
.....


SO WE'LL BE PREPARING FOR THE DISTRICT PRELIMINARIES THAT BEGIN IN TWO MONTHS AS WELL AS DOING SOME CONDITIONING.
WHAT HAPPENED? HE SUDDENLY JOINED THE CLUB.
BUT HE JUST IGNORED US BEFORE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE BEGGED!
I PERSONALLY MADE THE CHOICE.
BUT BEFORE THAT, SINCE THE CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM HAS YET TO BE DECIDED,
TAKATOU WILL BE CAPTAIN.





SCANNER N
TRANSLATOR TAN-TAM
CLEANER YOJI
EDITOR DLORI
TYPESETTER KALENDEL

Storm in Heaven




TAKATOU'S OUR NEW CAPTAIN!?
!


HOLD ON, COACH
CLONK
TAKATOU, THE CAPTAIN? HE'S ONLY IN HIS SECOND YEAR!
IS THERE A RULE THAT A JUNIOR CAN'T BECOME CAPTAIN? I CHOSE TAKATOU
BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS THE MOST SUITABLE ONE FOR THIS CLUB
OR IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO BE CAPTAIN?!
~~~~
~~~~


...WELL THEN, THAT'S HOW IT IS.
TAKA-TOU, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
SENSEI ...
COACH!
ATTLE


WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?!
WHY?! MAKING ME CAPTAIN...
DO YOU NOT HAVE CONFI-DENCE IN YOUR-SELF?
I'M JUST A JUNIOR, AND I'VE JUST JOINED THE CLUB TODAY...
IT'S NOT ABOUT CONFI-DENCE...
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE ARE UNUSU-ALLY HESITANT AND MODEST.


ANSWER ME HONESTLY.
AMONG ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS CLUB, INCLUDING YOU, WHO WOULD BE THE BEST CAPTAIN?!
WELL, WHO?!
ANSWER ME TAKATOU
...ME.


.....
THAT'S EXACTLY IT.
Boys' Basketball Club
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? HOW CAN A JUNIOR BE CAPTAIN? AND ON TOP OF THAT, TAKATOU!
HE ONLY CAME TO THE MEETING TODAY, BUT STARTING TOMORROW HE'LL START GOING TO REGULAR PRACTICES, TOO
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL STAND BEING ORDERED AROUND BY AN UNDERCLASSMAN


TAKA-TOU.
HOW'S EVERYONE TAKING IT IN THERE?
IT THREW THEM ALL INTO CHAOS, OF COURSE I WAS REALLY SURPRISED, TOO.
SLAM
...
THE MOST CONFUSED ONE IS ME
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT NAKATSUGAWA'S THINKING AT ALL... AND YET—
BY THE TIME YOU NOTICE, YOU'RE ALREADY GOING ALONG WITH HIM WELL, SHIT.


BUT STILL, THE COACH SUPPORTS YOU.
IN THE END, ISN'T EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED THE FLIP SIDE OF HIS INTEREST IN YOU?
WHO KNOWS...
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S REALLY THINKING...
I HAVE TO STAY ON MY GUARD AROUND HIM...
.....
WELL, WELL... FIRST THING TO DO IS PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE SENIORS
I'M GONNA GO TALK TO EVERYONE.


...
I GUESS. IT'S NORMAL TO PANIC IF YOU SUDDENLY..
HAKATOU
FALL INTO A SITUATION LIKE THIS..
TAKATOU AND NAKATSUGAWA..
I THINK BOTH OF THEM ARE HARD TO UNDERSTAND..


EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO DO THE WASH...
WELL, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START
HELLO, THIS IS TAKATOU SPEAKING
RING
Uhh – gross! Whose is this?
BUT IT WOULD BE DISGUSTING TO SEND EVEN UNDERWEAR TO THE CLEANER'S...


HELLO, IS THAT YOU, DARLING!?
M... MOM!
IT'S MASAKI! DON'T MISTAKE ME FOR DAD.
HUH!? OH, DEAR, YOU'RE NOT HIM. YOUR VOICE IS JUST LIKE HIS
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT ME?
IT... IT'S MOM.
MOM GOT IT WRONG AGAIN, HUH...
DUMMY, IT'S ME! CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR SON AND HUSBAND'S VOICES?!
HELLO...


"ARE THE CHILDREN DOING WELL," YOU ASK?! YOU LEFT THIS HOME BY YOUR OWN CHOICE AND NOW—
THE BOYS AND I ARE OKAY. NOTHING'S CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT.
LIAR
OUR HOUSE IS JUST LIKE A PIGSTY
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
Slam
WHAT DID MOM SAY!?
NEXT WEEK
SHE'S TRAVELING TO NEW CALEDONIA WITH YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

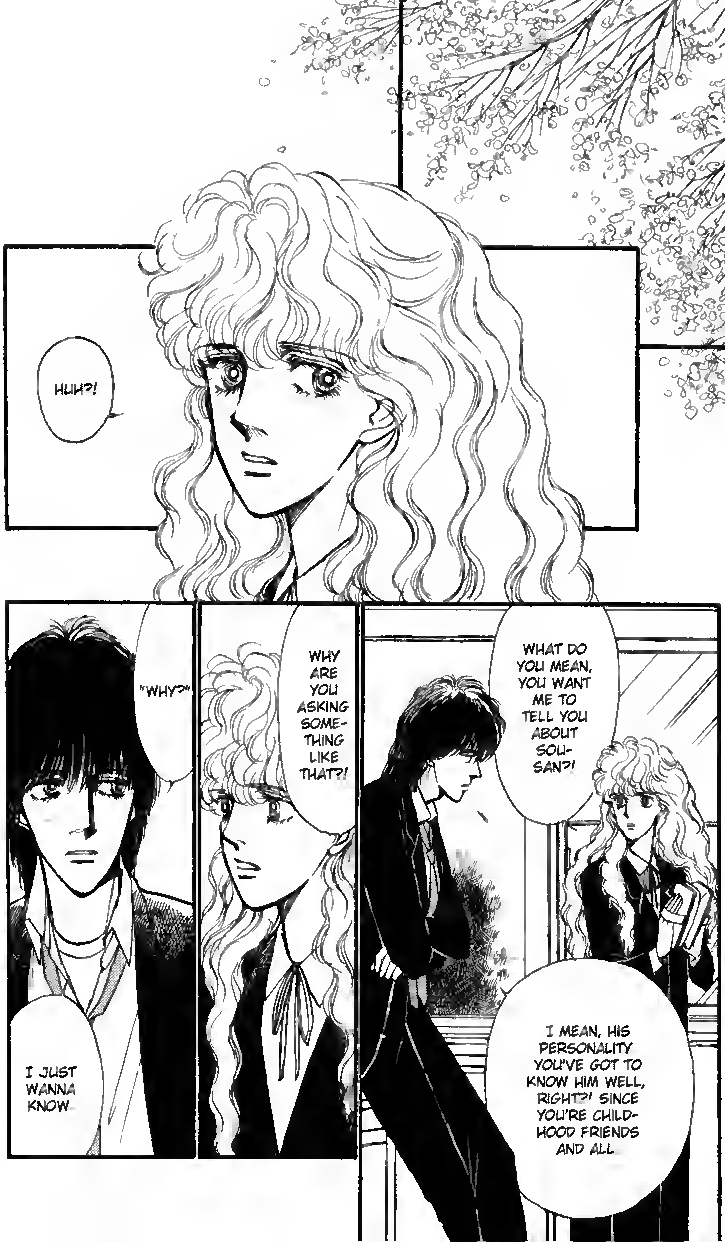

NEW CALEDO-NIA?!
MOM SAID SHE WAS REALLY GOING?!
THAT'S WHAT DAD SAID.
I SEE .. THAT'S QUITE THE ACT OF EMOTIONAL REVENGE
THAT'S A COMPLICATED WAY OF PUTTING IT LONG STORY SHORT, SHE'S HAVING A DIG AT DAD
FATHER, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS MOTHER, REALLY!?
DON'T ASK SUCH A QUESTION WITH THAT SERIOUS EXPRESSION, YOU IDIOT!


AT THIS RATE, MOM WON'T COME BACK ANY-TIME SOON.
ANYWAY, THE THING WE SHOULD DEAL WITH FIRST IS SPLITTING UP THE HOUSEWORK.
ALL RIGHT, DECIDE WHICH DAY OF THE WEEK YOU'LL TAKE YOUR TURN.
OH
UHH... BECAUSE I'VE JUST STARTED A CLUB
A CLUB— YOU MEAN BAS-KET-BALL?!
glance
ERR... I CAN'T PREPARE DINNER.
WHAT'S UP, MASAKI?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO GET OUT OF DOING HOUSE-WORK.
flop


WELL, I CAN DO HIS PART FOR HIM INSTEAD, RIGHT?
I KNOW... I'LL PREPARE BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING.
NONSENSE! YOU'RE NOT A MORNING PERSON. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE BREAKFAST
...
I'LL TRY, AT LEAST.
I DON'T MIND COOKING AND CLEANING THAT MUCH, AND IT'S GOOD THAT HE'S WILLING TO TRY. GIVE HIM A BREAK, OKAY?


DOING MY PART OF THE COOKING AND WASHING
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
SLAM
MASA-HIKO
THINKING ABOUT THAT, MY RESPON-SIBILITIES ARE A TINY SACRIFICE.
BUT IF BASKET-BALL IS TAKEN FROM YOU, YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING LEFT. AND IF YOU BECAME A DELIN-QUENT BECAUSE OF THAT, THEN OUR FAMILY WOULD BE A MESS.
WELL... I KNOW THAT IT'LL BE REALLY HARD.
.....
WELL, THEN, GOOD NIGHT.
I HAVE NO IDEA IF HE COUNTS AS A CUTE LITTLE KID OR NOT.


SO MASAKI JOINED THE BASKET-BALL CLUB AGAIN...
WHAT'S UP, BRO? YOU'RE GOT SUCH A MEEK EXPRES-SION
NOTHING MUCH. I WAS JUST REMEMBER-ING WHEN MASAKI WAS A KID
I WAS THINKING THAT, WHEN MASAKI WAS AROUND MASAHIKO'S AGE NOW, HE SEEMED TO BE SO WELL-BEHAVED...
HE USED TO BE AN OBEDIENT KID...
OR RATHER, I FEEL THAT HE IMITATED US.
BUT AFTER HE WENT TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AND STARTED BASKETBALL, HE BEGAN AS-SERTING HIM-SELF.
THAT WAS WHEN HE BEGAN CLASHING WITH DAD, TOO
I GET A BAD FEEL-ING WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT.


HUH?!
"WHY?"
I JUST WANNA KNOW.
WHY ARE YOU ASKING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT SOU-SAN?!
I MEAN, HIS PERSONALITY YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HIM WELL, RIGHT?! SINCE YOU'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND ALL

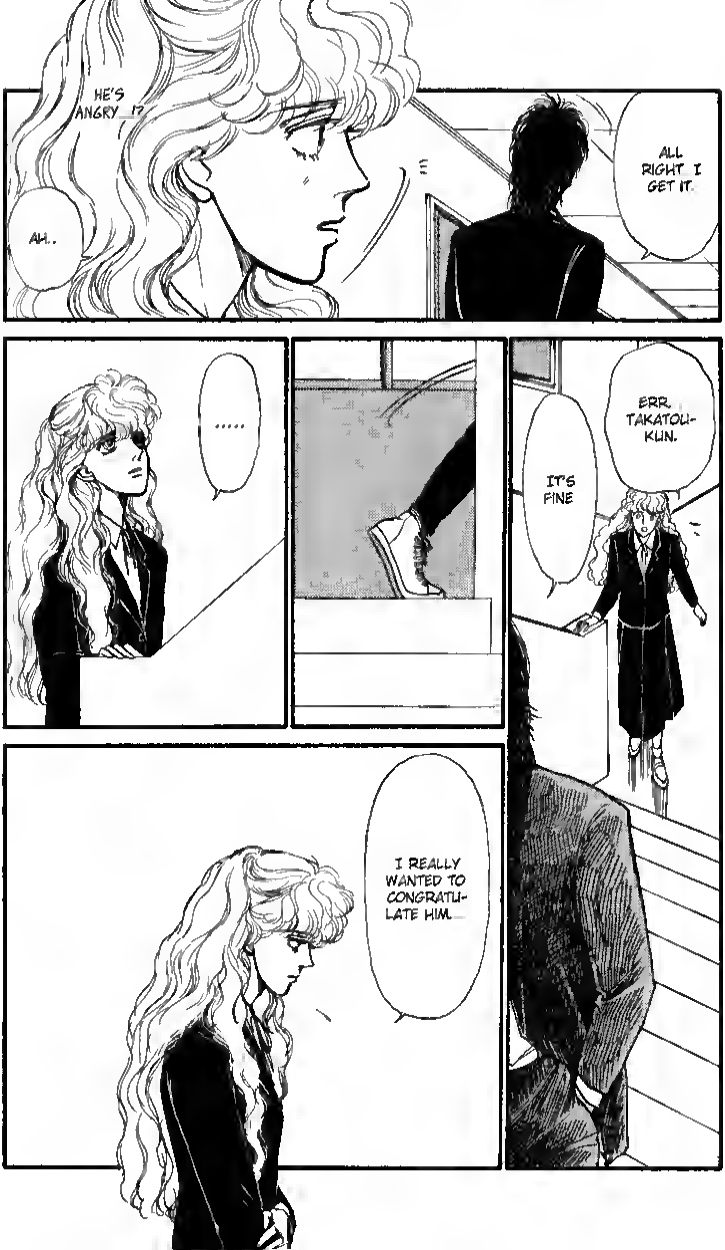

ANYWAY, I HAVE CLASS DUTY TODAY SO I HAVE TO GO PICK UP THE CLASS JOURNAL FROM THE STAFF ROOM
NO I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
I. . I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT. I'M SAYING I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT IT BECAUSE YOU'RE ASKING OUT OF MERE CURIOSITY.
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM
HOLD ON, YUUKI.
raffle raffle
I SEE THEM TOGETHER A LOT LATELY
HEY, DO YOU THINK THOSE TWO ARE TOGETHER?


I SAID THEY WERE JUST EXAMPLES
THOSE ARE ALL BAD THINGS.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF HE'S THE TYPE TO HOLD GRUDGES...
OR IF HE'S MALICIOUS OR CRAFTY.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE. I DON'T LIKE IT.
LOOKING AT THE STATE OF THINGS BETWEEN YOU TWO... THERE'S NO WAY YOU HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS.
ALL RIGHT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE JOINED THE BASKETBALL CLUB
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT YOU'LL GIVE ME A BAD NAME.


!
AND WHAT'S MORE, THAT IDIOT NAKATSUGAWA MADE ME CAPTAIN..
...
NO, HE REQUESTED IT OF ME..
I DON'T WANT TO JUST SIMPLY ACCEPT THAT, I WANT TO BE FRIENDLIER WITH HIM
IT'S SO THAT I KNOW WHAT STEPS TO TAKE.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT... WHEN?!
YESTERDAY
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YET, THOUGH
GOOD MORNING, TAKATOU-KUN


I HEARD THAT YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN OF THE BASKETBALL CLUB
CONGRATS
...
SO YOU HADN'T TOLD ANYONE ABOUT IT YET, RIGHT?!
HUH!? AH, NO, I DIDN'T I TOLD YOU FIRST JUST NOW.
THEN HOW DID THAT GIRL KNOW?!


THA.. THAT'S STRANGE. SHE MUST HAVE HEARD FROM SOME-ONE IN THE CLUB
I'M NOT PLAYING DUMB
ANYWAY, WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE
LATER. I TOLD YOU I HAVE CLASS DUTY. I HAVE TO GO GET THE CLASS JOURNAL
DON'T PLAY DUMB
ARE YOU ANGRY?
I'M NOT ANGRY IT'S JUST.. YOU'RE JUST SO STUBBORN, TAKATOU-KUN.
OH, I SEE


HE'S ANGRY...!?
AH..
ALL RIGHT I GET IT.
.....
ERR, TAKATOU-KUN.
IT'S FINE
I REALLY WANTED TO CONGRATU-LATE HIM...


THAT'S WHAT I WAS READY TO SAY,
CON-GRATS.
BUT THAT OTHER GIRL SAID IT TO HIM SO EASILY...
Boys' Basketball Club
EH!? WE CAN'T USE THE COURT!?


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!?
TO SUM IT UP THE GIRLS' CLUB HAS THE PRIORITY TO USE ALL THE EQUIPMENT IN THE GYM
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PRACTICE AT THE OUTDOOR COURT...
WELL, WHAT DO WE DO IF IT RAINS!?
WELL THEN .. WE'LL HAVE THE DAY OFF
AH, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T USE THE GYM AT ALL
RIGHT, WE CAN PRACTICE IN HALF OF THE COURT 3 DAYS A WEEK AND WHENEVER THE GIRLS' CLUB HAS THE DAY OFF
.....
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
I'VE THOUGHT FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT WE REALLY NEEDED TO HAVE A TALK WITH THE GIRLS' CLUB


OF COURSE. WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?! HE'S SO CARE-LESS!
THAT'S IT. WE SHOULD TAKE THIS CHANCE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM, HUH.
THIS COACH... WHAT'S WITH HIM?!
SO I'VE NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH THE TROUBLE OF SHARING A COURT LIKE THIS
LOOK, THE SCHOOL I USED TO WORK AT WAS AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL,
JUST YESTERDAY, HE WAS SO OVERBEARING AND KEPT PUSHING AND PUSHING ME, AND THEN HE'S SUDDENLY LIKE THIS...
WHY DOES HIS PERSONALITY CHANGE SO MUCH?
YOU KNOW WHY JUST FROM TAKING A LOOK AT THE GAME RECORD THAT THE BOYS' CLUB HAS.
WE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS COACH, BUT WE CAN'T ACCEPT THAT REQUEST.
WAKABADAI
7


I ASK BECAUSE WE WANT TO OVERCOME THAT SLUMP IN OUR RECORD
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU COULD GIVE US A LITTLE LEEWAY?
WELL, WELL, EVEN THOUGH IT'S NAKATSUGAWA,
THE ODDS ARE AGAINST HIM AFTER ALL
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT TO PRACTICE ON HALF THE COURT EVERY DAY INSTEAD OF THREE DAYS A WEEK.
NO, I WANT TO USE THE WHOLE COURT EVERY DAY
!
YOU MUST BE KIDDING! ARE YOU TRYING TO KICK US OUT TO THE OUTDOOR COURT?!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU WANT TO SACRIFICE THE GIRLS' CLUB FOR THE BOYS', COACH NAKATSUGAWA?!


I'M WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WHAT I'M ASKING IS UNREASONABLE,
BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO IMPROVE THE TEAM'S SKILLS
IM-PROVE THE TEAM'S SKILLS!?
IF I COULD SEE JUST A GLIMPSE OF THOSE SKILLS, I MIGHT BE WILLING TO RETURN TO THIS DISCUSSION
WELL, THEN, IF WE CAN SHOW YOU THAT GLIMPSE, WILL YOU GO ALONG WITH OUR REQUEST?!
BY ALL MEANS, WE'D LIKE TO SEE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN WE'LL ANNOUNCE IT AT THE GAME NEXT WEEK
YOU... YOU MUST BE JOKING...!
C... COACH


HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
UH... UM..
THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK.
OH... LET ME TELL YOU THIS, THOUGH. PLEASE PLAY FAIR
I SAY THIS SINCE YOUR CAPTAIN'S STRONG POINT SEEMS TO BE VIOLENCE.
THE GIRL FROM THIS MORNING...!
HAYASHINO-SAN, WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? HURRY UP AND COME HERE
THAT'S HARSH
COMING!


I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING...
...H...
TAKATOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? LET'S GO
!

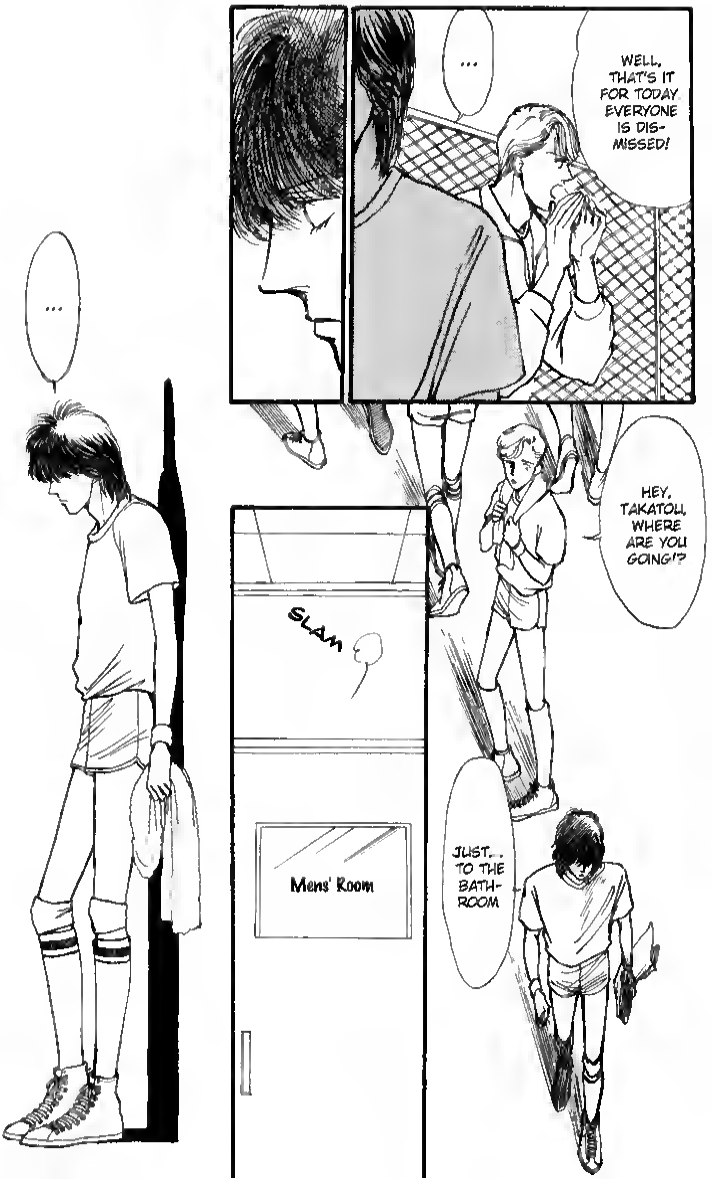

YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER THAN THAT PLAYING ONE-ON-ONE?! IF YOU DON'T PRESSURE THEM, THEY'LL GET BY YOU EASILY
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I SAID!
I KNOW THAT LOGICALLY, BUT...
I CAN'T REALLY DO IT THE WAY I PICTURE IT...


IT'D BE GREAT IF THAT WERE TRUE! AHAHA!
IF YOU COULD PLAY WELL JUST BY THINKING, THEN YOU COULD DO IT JUST BY SLEEPING AT HOME
...
...
AH~~~~~ UM~~~
WELL, THEN, NEXT WE'LL PRACTICE TWO ON TWO WE'LL START WITH THE FOUR STARTING SENIORS
I WAS WATCHING IT I WAS WATCHING IT, BUT IT JUST WENT SOME-WHERE ELSE ON ITS OWN!
I DON'T GET IT! HOW DID YOU FUMBLE SUCH A BASIC PASS?! WERE YOU WATCHING THE BALL AT ALL?!


WHAT, SO THE BALL AVOIDED YOU, UEHARA-SAN?!
YEAH, THAT'S IT! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT HATES ME...
TAKA-TOU, YOU...!
HEY! WHO TOLD YOU TO ACT LIKE A COUPLE OF CO-MEDIANS ON THE COURT?! THESE MEMBERS OF THE GIRLS' CLUB ARE LAUGHING AT YOU!
HEH HEH HEH
HE'S SO CUTE!
OOPS.
HATING ME THIS MUCH, IT'S GOTTA BE A GUY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS GIRLS THAT HATED YOU THAT MUCH
COACH, THIS GUY CRITICIZES EVERYTHING WE DO
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ONLY DO THINGS THAT NEED CRITICIZING


TAKATOU, DON'T SNAP AT EVERYONE RIGHT OFF THE BAT. THAT MAKES EVERYONE DISPIRITED.
YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR TIME AND TEACH THEM WITH YOUR HEAD.
TAKE MY TIME?! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
SAYING THAT WE'LL SHOW OUR TRUE ABILITY IN THE GAME NEXT WEEK— THAT'S A HUGE DECLARATION YOU MADE.
HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FIXING IT WHEN THIS IS OUR REAL LEVEL?!
Where are you throwing it——?!
HOH!
.....
ANYWAY, WELL, THINGS WILL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT... WITH THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING, THAT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD SAY.
WHOA— WATCH OUT, TAKATOU!!
WHATEVER EVEN IF YOU SAY CARELESS THINGS LIKE THAT OR IF MEMBERS OF THE GIRLS' CLUB LOOK DOWN ON US, I DON'T CARE.


CRASH
YIPES! SORRY, TAKATOU, I'M SORRY!
...
ARE—, ARE YOU OKAY?! I DIDN'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE, REALLY, I...
IT'S OKAY
ALL RIGHT ...
THAT COMBI-NATION, ONCE MORE ...
CAP-TAIN
WE CAN'T SEE THE BALL ANY MORE


...
WELL, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY. EVERYONE IS DISMISSED!
...
HEY, TAKATOU, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
SLAM
Mens' Room
JUST... TO THE BATHROOM


DOWN TO THE LAST...
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM,
THE VEINS IN MY BRAIN ARE GONNA EXPLODE.
HUFF?
SLAM
THEY ALL SUCK !!

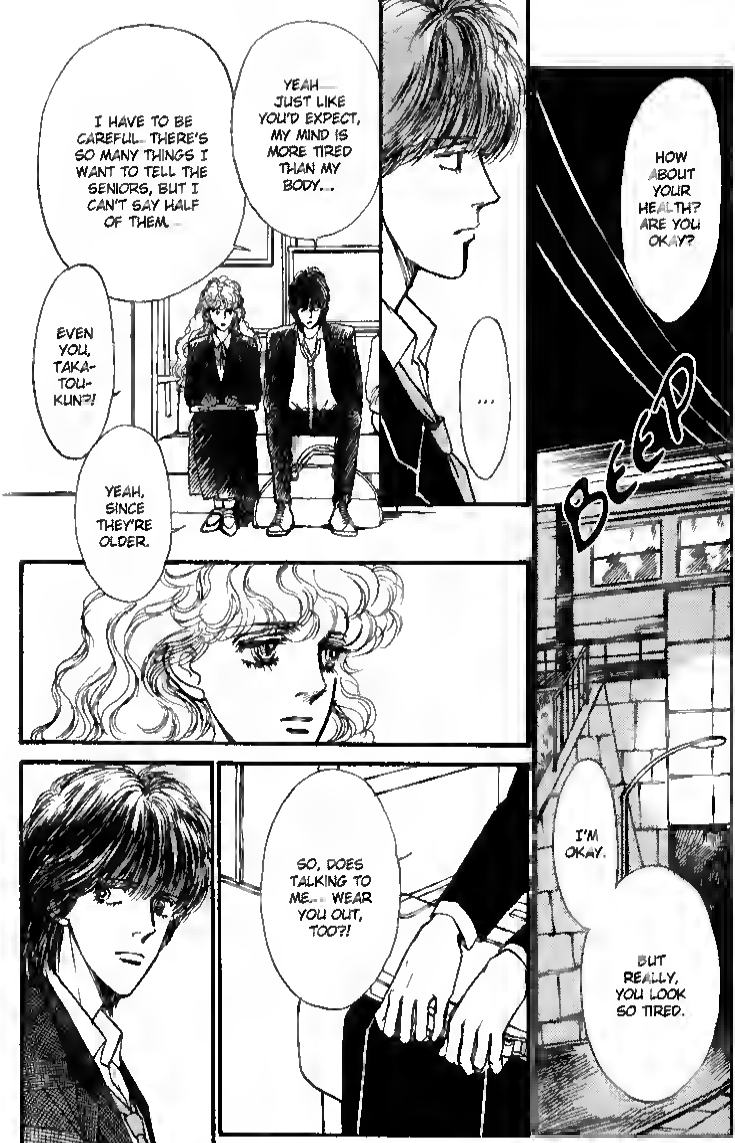

THAT'S RIGHT, I SCOUTED THE BOYS' PRACTICE JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
THEY'RE THE WORST.
EVERYONE ELSE SHOULD GO TAKE A LOOK. IT'LL REALLY MAKE YOU LAUGH
No Way
ha ha ha
AT THIS RATE, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MEGUMI.
NO, I'M NOT REALLY WORRIED ABOUT ANY-THING, BUT...
WE'RE FACING THAT COACH...
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT SHOWING US THEIR TRUE ABILITY IN THIS GAME?! THAT'S JUST A BLUFF.
WELL, I'LL ACKNOWL-EDGE THE ABILITY OF THAT UNDER-CLASSMAN, TAKATOU.
THE COACH AND THE CAP-TAIN ARE PEDI-GREE, BUT THE REST ARE ALL HACKS
HA HA HA
You can say that again!
I'M LEAVING.
RATTLE


!
RUSTLE
TAKA-TOU-KU...
IT'S LATE WHAT'RE YOU STILL DOING HERE?


YOU WAITED HERE SO LONG JUST TO SAY THAT?! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU... UNTIL PRACTICE WAS OVER
ERR... TAKATOU-KUN, I WANTED TO TELL YOU SOME-THING...
WHAT WAS IT?
ERR...
CONGRATU-LATIONS ON MAKING CAPTAIN...
BE-CAUSE...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR HEALTH GOT WORSE AGAIN?
I COULDN'T STAND IT IF SOMETHING BAD HAP-PENED TO YOU BECAUSE OF ME...
I DON'T WANT NAKATSUGAWA TO BE ANY MORE PISSED AT ME THAN HE ALREADY IS...


I...
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO..
SORRY...

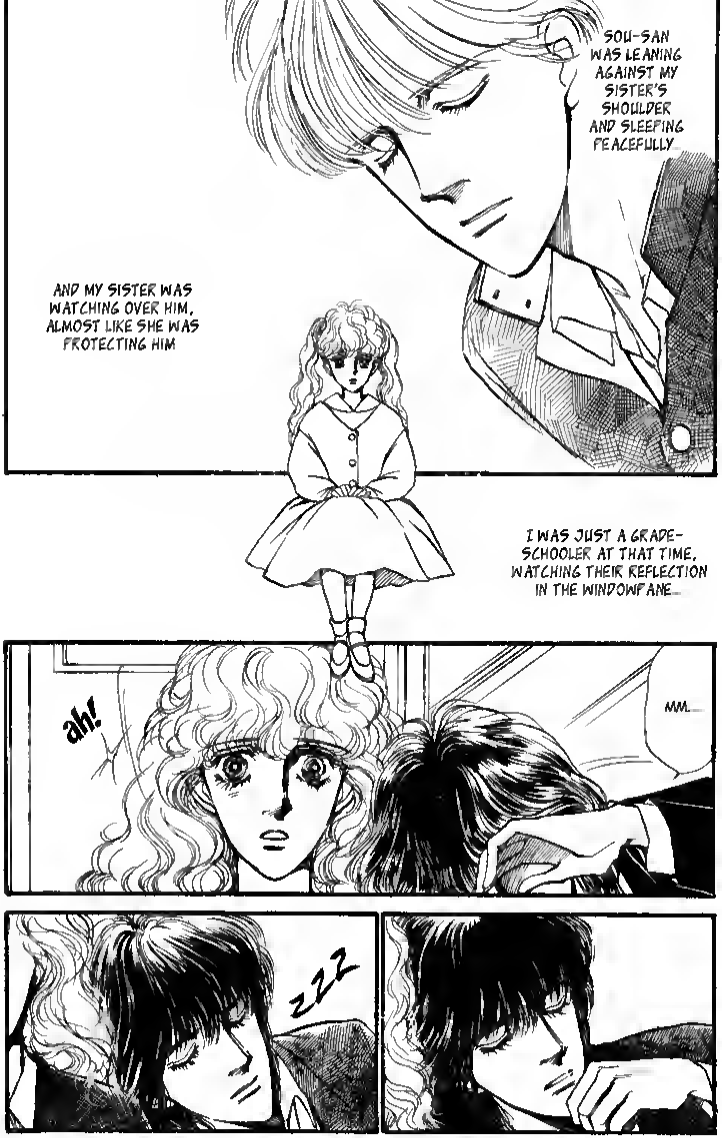

I'M JUST REALLY ON EDGE...
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE. YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF WAITING FOR ME...
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
I'M SORRY...
SORRY
IT'S MY FAULT.
...

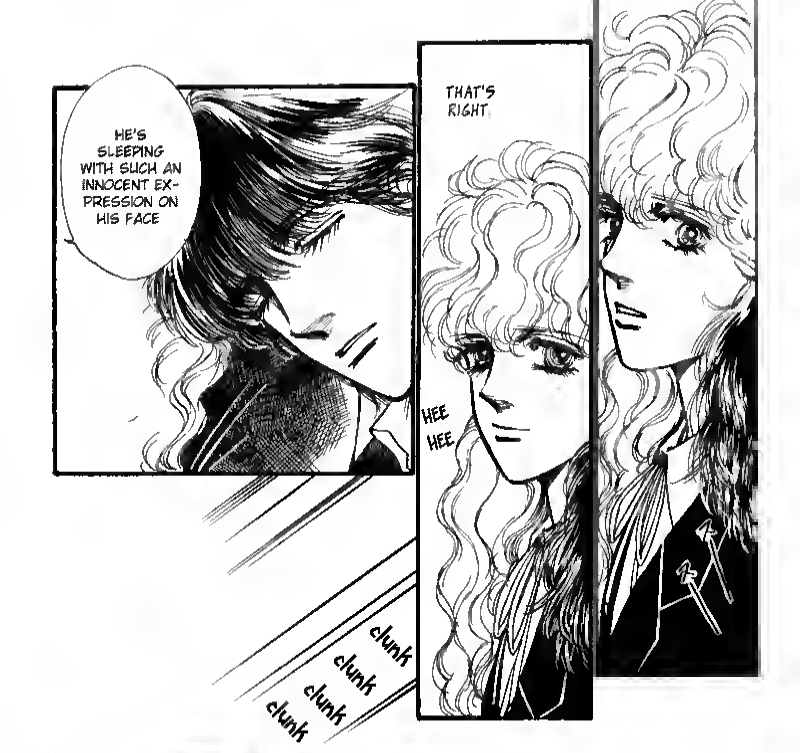

HOW ABOUT YOUR HEALTH? ARE YOU OKAY?
BEEP
I'M OKAY.
BUT REALLY, YOU LOOK SO TIRED.
...
YEAH— JUST LIKE YOU'D EXPECT, MY MIND IS MORE TIRED THAN MY BODY...
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. THERE'S SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO TELL THE SENIORS, BUT I CAN'T SAY HALF OF THEM.
EVEN YOU, TAKA-TOU-KUN?!
YEAH, SINCE THEY'RE OLDER.
SO, DOES TALKING TO ME... WEAR YOU OUT, TOO?!


DO I LOOK LIKE I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'LL THINK?!
..ABSOLUTELY NOT. FAR FROM IT, YOU'RE A BIT OVERBEARING.
THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
YAWN
KANAKO-SAN, YOU'RE MY CLASSMATE.
YOU'RE IN THE SAME GRADE AS ME.
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP A LITTLE WHILE?
JEEZ, LOOK AT HIM. HE JUST YAWNED AND IMMEDIATELY FELL ASLEEP
AH, I'M SLEEPY... I NEVER GET THIS TIRED, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PRACTICE.
I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN WE GET TO THE STATION.
shoved


I . I'M SORRY
clunk clunk clunk
.....
...
clunk clunk
I'M SORRY
clunk clunk clunk
clunk clunk clunk


I'VE SEEN THIS SIGHT ONCE BEFORE
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SIS TOOK ME TO WATCH ONE OF SOU-SAN'S GAMES ON THE WAY HOME...
NORI-CHAN, IS SOU ALL RIGHT?
SOU IS EXHAUSTED HE DID A LOT TODAY SO LET'S BE QUIET, OKAY?
SHH, HE'S SLEEP-ING

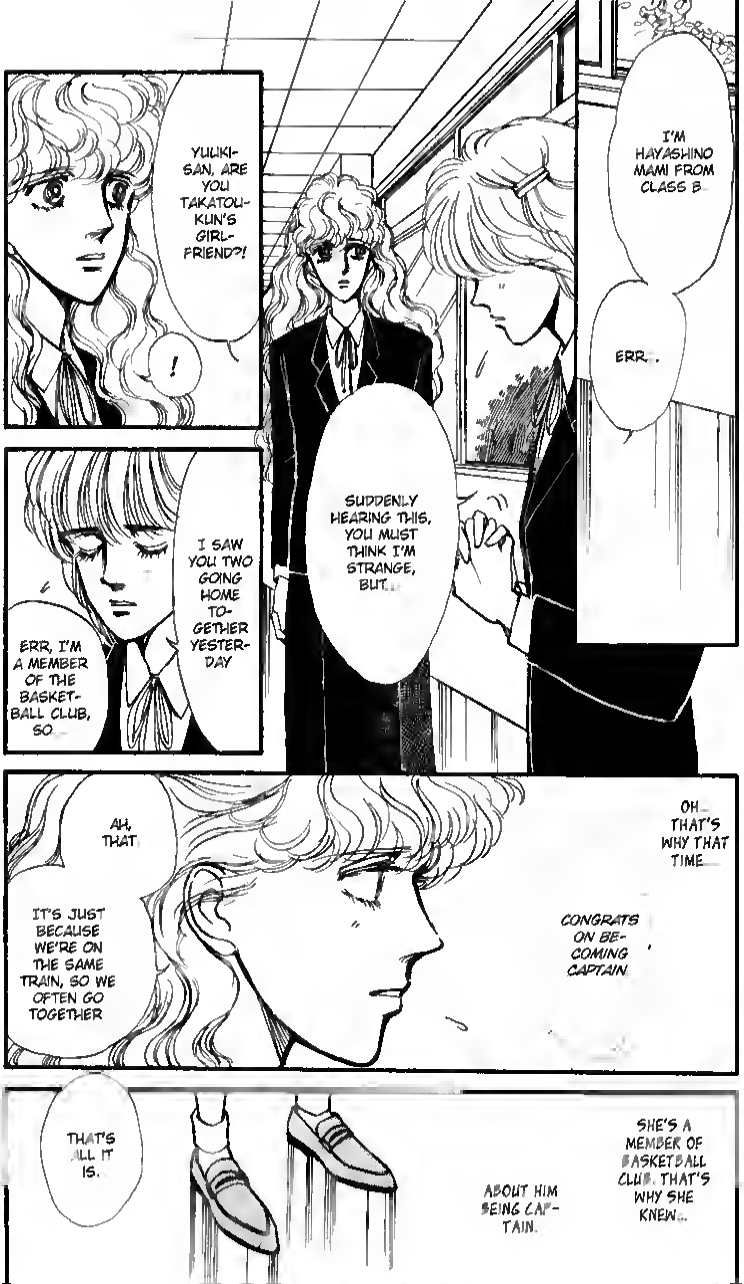

SOU-SAN WAS LEANING AGAINST MY SISTER'S SHOULDER AND SLEEPING PEACEFULLY
AND MY SISTER WAS WATCHING OVER HIM, ALMOST LIKE SHE WAS PROTECTING HIM
I WAS JUST A GRADE-SCHOOLER AT THAT TIME, WATCHING THEIR REFLECTION IN THE WINDOWPANE...
ah!
MM...
zzz



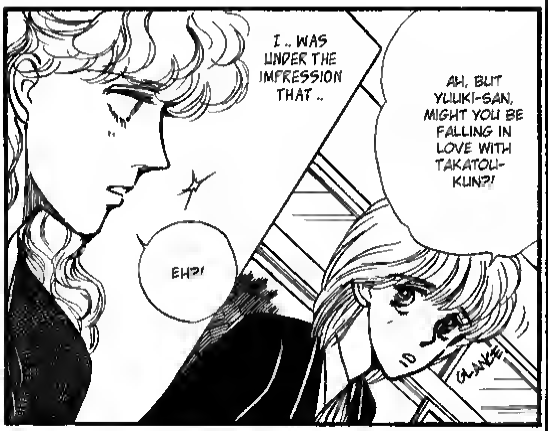


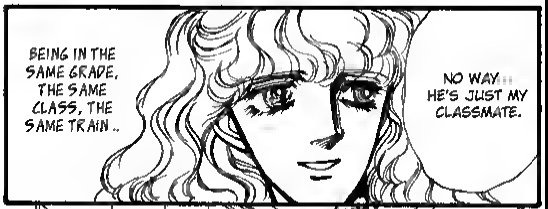
GOOD NIGHT— TAKATOU-KUN


Ladies' Room
WOW
WOW
!
MAMI, LET'S GO!
AH, IT'S OKAY. YOU GO AHEAD
THIS GIRL... FROM THAT TIME...
ERR...
YOU'RE YULIKI-SAN.. FROM CLASS C, RIGHT?!


I'M HAYASHINO MAMI FROM CLASS B...
ERR...
SUDDENLY HEARING THIS, YOU MUST THINK I'M STRANGE, BUT...
YULIKI-SAN, ARE YOU TAKATOU-KUN'S GIRL-FRIEND?!
!
I SAW YOU TWO GOING HOME TO-GETHER YESTER-DAY
ERR, I'M A MEMBER OF THE BASKET-BALL CLUB, SO...
OH... THAT'S WHY THAT TIME...
CONGRATS ON BE-COMING CAPTAIN
AH, THAT
IT'S JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ON THE SAME TRAIN, SO WE OFTEN GO TOGETHER
SHE'S A MEMBER OF BASKETBALL CLUB. THAT'S WHY SHE KNEW...
ABOUT HIM BEING CAP-TAIN.
THAT'S ALL IT IS.


REALLY?! THERE'S REALLY NOTHING BETWEEN YOU TWO?!
THAT'S ALL...?!
KANAKO-SAN, YOU'RE MY CLASSMATE
YES . IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT WE GO THE SAME WAY
I'M SO GLAD!
AHEM.
OH!
THIS GIRL— LIKES HIM...?
HE'S ALMOST AN IDOL TO ME. I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE TOGETHER WITH ANYONE YET
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE BEEN A FAN OF HIS SINCE THAT GAME





THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US

IS MADE UP OF NOTHING BUT COINCIDENCES



THIS GIRL LIKES TAKATOU-KUN THE SAME WAY I USED TO LONG FOR SOU-SAN


PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME SAY THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
I KNOW THAT MUCH!
ANGRY
ANGRY
ANGRY
ANGRY
ANGRY
FRUSTRATED
FRUSTRATED
YOU HAVE TO SHIFT YOUR POSITION IMMEDI-ATELY.
IF YOUR OPPONENT GETS PAST YOU, DON'T JUST WATCH HIM GO BY IN SHOCK!
IF WE COULD DO IT AS EASILY AS YOU SAY IT, THEN WE WOULDN'T BE WORKING SO HARD.
ANGRY
FRUSTRATED
IF YOU KNOW, THEN WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO?
WHAT'S A W. STE, OGI?
WELL—
BUT IT'S SUCH A WASTE!
AGAIN? THEY QUARREL LIKE THIS EVERY DAY....!
WELL, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FRESHMEN LIKE US.
WHEN HAVE YOU EVER WORKED HARD?!
ANYHOW, WE CAN'T PLAY AS WELL AS YOU!

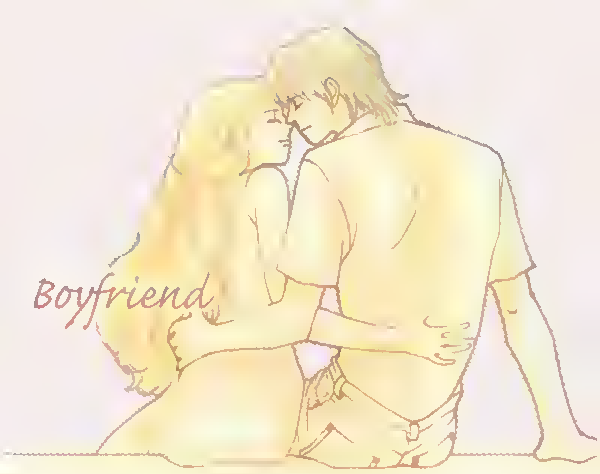

WE'VE GOT A GAME TOMORROW. WHAT'S WITH THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING?!
I THINK THAT'S A WASTE.
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE SOMEONE AS GOOD AS TAKATOU-SAN ON OUR TEAM, THE SENIORS AREN'T EVEN TRYING TO LEARN ANYTHING FROM HIM
WHAT, YOU'RE QUARRELING AGAIN? THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.
DOES IT MATTER WHAT GRADE YOU'RE IN WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING?!
YOU'RE SO INSOLENT, EVEN THOUGHT YOU'RE JUST A JUNIOR!
TAKATOU, BEING CAPTAIN DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SHOUT ALL THE TIME.
HEY, HOLD ON, TAKATOU.
WELL THEN COACH, IT'S BETTER IF YOU'RE THE ONE TO GUIDE THEM GENTLY.


IN THE END, THOSE PLAYERS DON'T HAVE ANY ENTHUSIASM.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS REALLY MAKING YOU FURIOUS, BUT...
BUT EVERYONE IS DESPERATELY DOING THEIR BEST...
WHERE'S THAT "DESPERATELY DOING THEIR BEST" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?! SAYING THAT IS ONLY AN EXCUSE
WE HAVEN'T BEEN BLESSED WITH TALENT LIKE YOU
EVEN IF WE WANT TO, WE CAN'T ACTUALLY DO IT
WE AREN'T CUT OUT FOR IT LIKE YOU ARE, AND WE'VE NEVER BEEN...
WE'RE MADE COMPLETELY DIFFERENTLY


KOGA ?!
THE THINGS THAT WE CAN'T DO NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE TRY—
YOU PULL THOSE THINGS OFF SO EASILY IT REALLY MAKES US ANGRY THAT YOU CAN DO IT SO EFFORTLESSLY.
I..
SEEING YOU, WE'RE BEYOND ENVIOUS.
...
I GET SO JEALOUS OF YOU!


clack
HEY... CAPTAIN OF THE GIRLS' CLUB.
WHAT'S UP?!
I'M HANYUU MEGUMI.
I'M VISITING TO SHOW MY SUPPORT... THOUGH IT'S RATHER MORE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOU, COACH,
SINCE YOU MUST REGRET TALKING SO BIG


REGRETTING IT?
WHO, ME?
IT'S QUITE THE PITY, BUT THE BOYS' CLUB WILL CERTAINLY LOSE THE GAME TOMORROW.
THANKS TO TAKATOU, MAYBE YOU GUYS WON'T BE THRASHED...
THIS IS...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
TAKATOU'S NAME...
ISN'T ON THIS ROSTER!



SHANNE N
ALLAR TAN-TAM
E DELILARYN
IT DLORI
DC KALENDEL

Storm in Heaven


JUST . .
WHAT IS THIS, COACH NAKA-TSUGA-WA!?
WHAT IS IT?
AS YOU CAN SEE.
I'M NOT USING TAKA-TOU.


NO WAY...
THEN WHY DID YOU MAKE HIM CAPTAIN!?
OR RATHER, I CAN'T USE HIM.
RIGHT NOW TAKATOU CAN'T HELP THE TEAM. HE'S ACTUALLY RUINING IT.
THE TEAM NEEDS A BAD GUY.
STILL, HE'S JUST A JUNIOR, SO HE'S ON SHAKY GROUND WITH THE SENIORS.
IF TEAMMATES HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, THEY CAN'T IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS.
TAKATOU PLAYS THE ROLE OF THE BAD GUY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.


TAKATOU IS...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD DO WITH HIM.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU MADE HIM CAPTAIN...
WELL, DEALING WITH HIM IS DIFFICULT...
IT'S LIKE HANDLING NITRO.
NITRO...
NITRO-GLYCERIN CAN MAKE DYNAMITE, BUT IT'S ALSO USED FOR HEART MEDICINE.
BUT STILL, THAT'S TOO MUCH... REMOVING THE CAPTAIN FROM THE TEAM ROSTER.
NITRO-GLYCERIN? THE RAW MATERIAL FOR DYNAMITE!?
BUT, USING TOO MUCH OF IT CAN MAKE YOU SICKER


IT'S THE SAME WITH TAKATOU.
DEPENDING ON HOW IT'S PREPARED, IT CAN BECOME A MEDICINE TO SAVE LIVES OR SOMETHING AS DANGEROUS AS AN EXPLOSIVE.
HE'S GOT NATURAL TALENT, BUT HE STILL CAN'T USE IT THE RIGHT WAY.
IF HE GOES IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, HE'LL CAUSE LOTS OF TROUBLE,
LIKE BACK IN THE MATCH WITH MEIWA HIGH
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO USE SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
HE'S JUST THAT KIND OF PLAYER...


WITHOUT TAKATOU YOU LOSE ANY CHANCE TO WIN!
BU... BUT
TOMORROW'S OPPONENT, SEIJOU HIGH, IS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS MEIWA HIGH.
REALLY, I THOUGHT YOU WANTED US TO LOSE

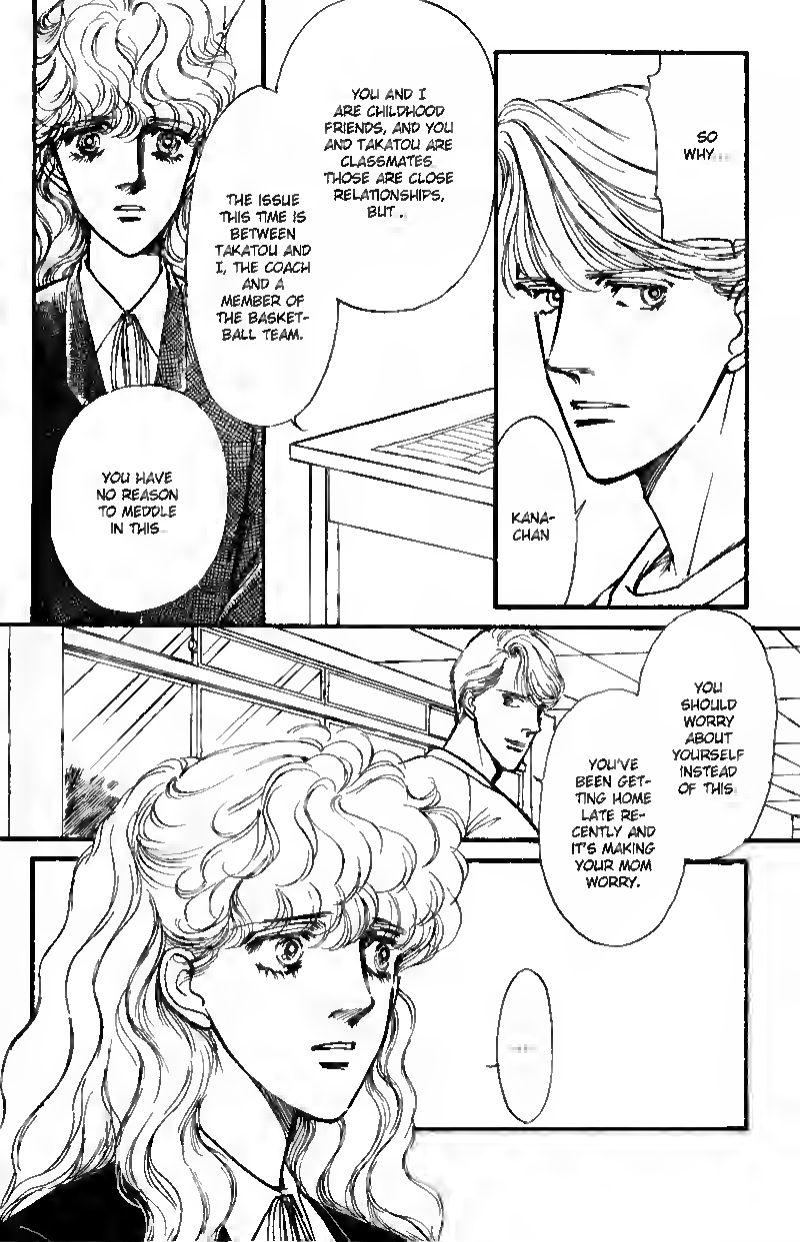

THAT'S WEIRD. I CAN'T SEE TAKATOU-KUN ANY-WHERE...
KOGA ISN'T HERE EITHER.
HM...
WHAT !?
SHOCK
A...
NO, NOTH-ING
Some guys in blue are so scary
THAT SCARED ME. THEY LOOK LIKE OLD GUYS!


WELL... DO YOU KNOW WHERE TAKATOU IS?
THE CAPTAIN MIGHT BE IN THE CLUB ROOM, I THINK.
AH, YES
UM, ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE BASKET-BALL CLUB?
OK!
OGI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? HURRY UP!
I'M SORRY.
BE QUICK!

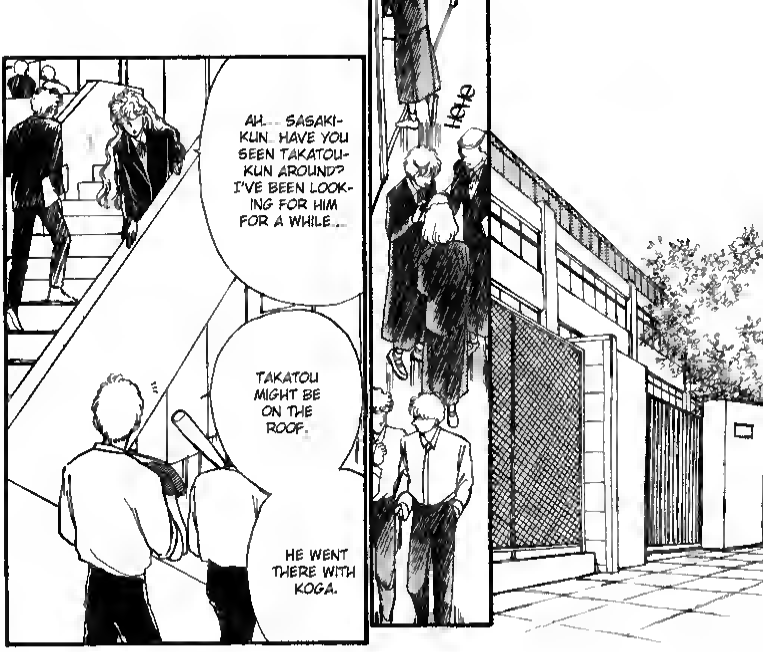

TRAINING AND PLAYING WITH THESE PEOPLE EVERY DAY...
THAT WAS SCARY.
I'M TELLING YOU I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM, SINCE I'M A CAPTAIN TOO.
THAT'S WHY TAKATOU-KUN ALWAYS FEELS EXHAUSTED.
REMOVING HIM FROM THE LINEUP WHEN HE'S CAPTAIN...
rattle
THE MATCH TOMORROW IS LOST. THAT'S AS CLEAR AS DAY.


!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
rattle
OH, THIS TIME IT'S YOU. PEOPLE KEEP COMING AND GOING, SEEMS LIKE TODAY'S MY BUSY DAY.
IS THAT TRUE!? TAKATOH ISN'T PLAYING!?


HIS STRONG, BOLD SHOTS AND CLEVER TACTICS...
HE'S EXACTLY LIKE YOU WERE BEFORE!
THAT'S JUST HOW YOU PLAYED!
clack
EAVESDROPPING ISN'T LIKE YOU
REALLY, SOU?
WHY!?
WHY?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU VALUED TAKATOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE DID
YOU'RE EXACTLY THE SAME
PLAYING ROUGH, DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN. DOING EVERYTHING WELL WITH SUCH PASSION. EVERYTHING.


SO WHY...
KANA-CHAN
YOU AND I ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, AND YOU AND TAKATOU ARE CLASSMATES. THOSE ARE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS, BUT...
THE ISSUE THIS TIME IS BETWEEN TAKATOU AND I, THE COACH AND A MEMBER OF THE BASKET-BALL TEAM.
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO MEDDLE IN THIS.
YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF INSTEAD OF THIS.
YOU'VE BEEN GET-TING HOME LATE RE-CENTLY AND IT'S MAKING YOUR MOM WORRY.
...


WHEN TAKATOU-KUN FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS
WHY ...!?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING
THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE IT'LL DO... SOU-SAN SURELY KNOWS IT..


AH... SASAKI-KUN. HAVE YOU SEEN TAKATOU-KUN AROUND? I'VE BEEN LOOK-ING FOR HIM FOR A WHILE...
TAKATOU MIGHT BE ON THE ROOF.
HE WENT THERE WITH KOGA.
HEH


WITH KOGA ...?


DON'T WORRY... TAKATOU.


I'M SURE THE COACH MUST BE THINKING OF SOMETHING...
HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR NOT USING YOU. SO...
TAKE IT EASY.
crash
TRUTH BE TOLD, YOU MUST BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, SINCE YOU'RE JEALOUS OF ME.
!
TAKA-TOU, YOU...


YOU GUYS USUALLY GET ALONG SO WELL.
COMFORTING SOMEONE CAN BE A REAL PAIN.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT BORDERS ON GLOATING
YOU'RE LIKE THAT TOO?


I'VE SEEN YOU LIKE THIS BEFORE,
AS I THOUGHT, THIS CONVERSATION IS GOING NOWHERE
AFTER THE MATCH WITH MEIWA, AT THE FOUNTAIN
AH..
BACK THEN.
HE LOOKS CALMER THAN I THOUGHT
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...
I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE MORE ANGRY
I..
I.. WHEN I WATCHED YOU PLAYING, I WAS SURPRISED
YOU PLAYED EXACTLY LIKE SOU-SAN DID WHEN HE WAS ACTIVE
SO... YOU SEE..


creak
creak
LOOKING AT YOU, HE SEES HIMSELF
SO, THERE'S NO WAY HE WILL GIVE UP ON YOU
TAKATOU-KUN!
gasp


AH, THERE'S SO MUCH BLOOD ON HIS HAND
WHY!?
WHY DID YOU —?
HE'S BEEN GRINDING HIS HANDS INTO IT THIS WHOLE TIME.
OH NO—
!?
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.


I TAKE AFTER HIM BECAUSE I HAVE TALENT!? THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
IN HIS EYES, THERE'S ONLY YOU.
HE CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE,
NOT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE A WINNING BASKETBALL TEAM.
I'M IN THE CLUB BECAUSE HE WANTS TO GUARD ME SO THAT I CAN'T GET CLOSE TO YOU.
TAKATOU-KUN! THAT HURTS! LET ME GO!
GO AHEAD AND SCREAM!
RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO TEAR YOU APART!


DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE EYES...
PLEASE...


PLEASE


WHAT SHOULD I DO?


WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU!?
AH!
YOU'RE SO GENTLE...
I THOUGHT HE WAS CRYING...
YOU'RE TOO GENTLE TO BE REAL...
!
WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING?

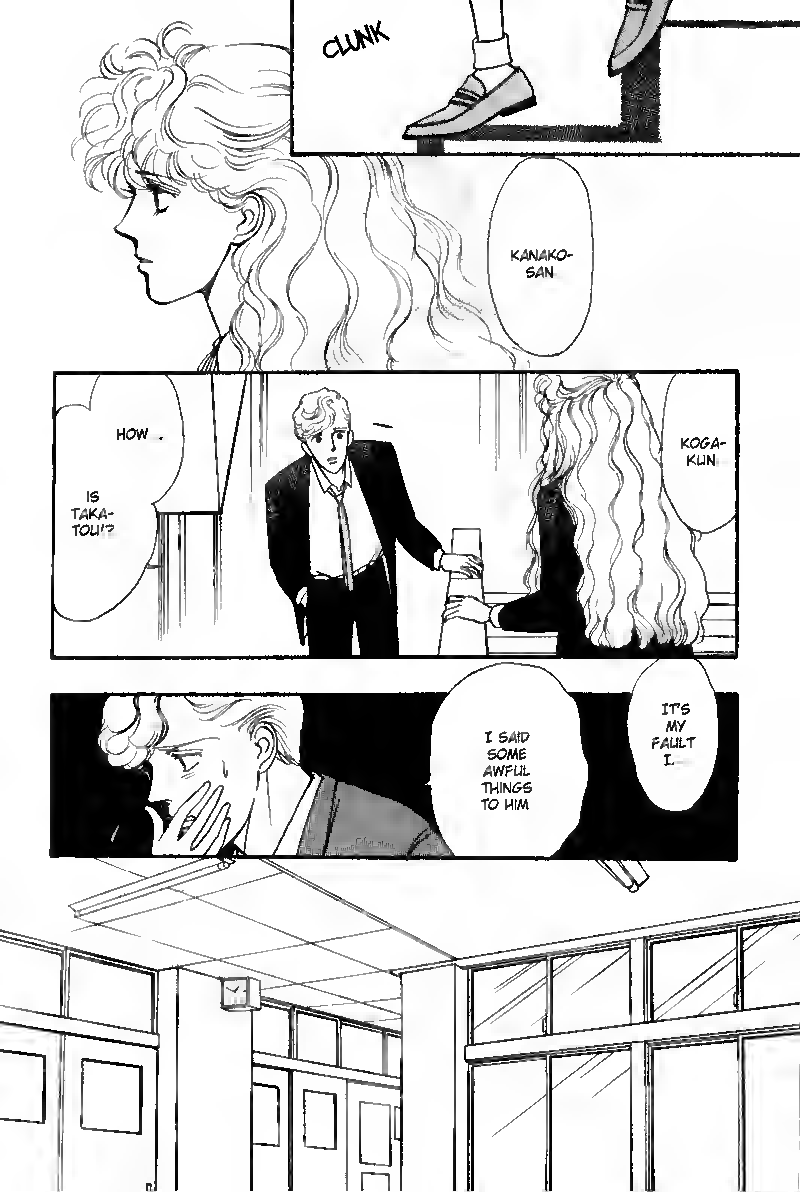

I'M THINKING OF DOING SOMETHING I MAY REGRET.
I MAY SEEM LIKE A BRAT TO YOU, BUT...
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME
I'M A GUY, YOU KNOW.
YOU'LL... REGRET THIS.
LET'S TRY IT. I WANT TO SEE WHO'LL REGRET IT.
YOU MEAN SOU-SAN!?


DOES IT HURT THAT MUCH.
WHEN HE DOESN'T LOOK BACK AT YOU?
YOU ONCE SAID THAT...
YOUR FATHER HATED YOU.
BACK THEN, YOU LOOKED LIKE THIS, TOO.


.....
TAKA-TOU-KUN!


YOU WON'T LEAVE THE CLUB!?
LEAVING THE CLUB BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD MAKE ME A LAUGHING-STOCK
HEY...


THANKS FOR THE HANDKER-CHIEF...
!
EVEN AFTER THIS, TOMORROW MORNING YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME "GOOD MORNING" AS PATIENTLY AS EVER, RIGHT?


CLUNK
KANAKO-SAN
KOGA-KUN
HOW IS TAKA-TOU!?
IT'S MY FAULT I...
I SAID SOME AWFUL THINGS TO HIM


MY PROBLEM IS THAT I ENVY HIM.
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, I'M JUST JEAL-OUS...
WELL... IF YOU CAN, COULD YOU PASS ALONG MY APOLOGY TO HIM?
HE SEEMS TO LISTEN TO YOU...
I DON'T THINK I CAN, EITHER
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON HE'LL LISTEN TO...
RIGHT NOW, HIS MIND IS JUST FULL OF THAT PERSON.


BOY'S BASKETBALL CLUB
WHAT!? TAKATOU WON'T PLAY IN THE MATCH!?
WHAT ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT!?
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS HATED HIM.
BUT...
IF HE DOESN'T PLAY, IT'S...
I MEAN, ISN'T HE OUR CAPTAIN FOR NOW!?
HAVE YOU EVER TREATED HIM LIKE YOUR CAPTAIN!?
YOUR CAPTAIN?


!
I'M SUR-PRISED.
YOU ALWAYS COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS CON-CEITED AND ANNOYING. YOU CURSED AT HIM
STOP ACTING IRRESPONSI-BLY. GO OUT THERE AND PLAY A GOOD GAME WITH YOUR REAL ABILITIES
AND NOW THAT YOU NEED HIM, YOU CALL HIM YOUR CAP-TAIN. JUST WHO DO YOU THINK TAKA-TOU IS!?
ANY-WAY...
TODAY IS YOUR MATCH
clunk

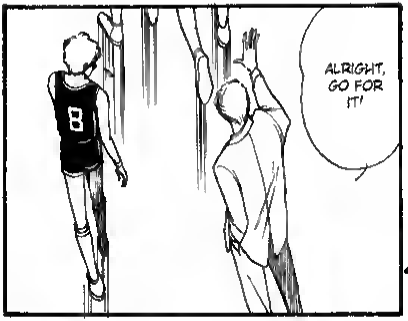

THANK YOU.
YOUR WOUND ISN'T SERIOUS, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T USE YOUR RIGHT HAND FOR 2 OR 3 DAYS.
WELL, IT'S OK NOW.
LIKE I KNOW!
I BET 20,000 YEN THAT WE WOULD WIN BECAUSE YOU JOINED THE CLUB. WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
HEY, TAKATOU IS IT TRUE THAT YOU AREN'T PLAYING IN THE MATCH TODAY!?
FORGET IT.
Give My Money Back! You fraud!

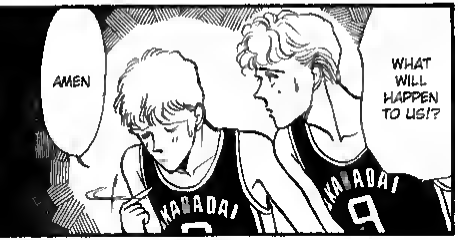

AH...
AH... HAYA-SHINO?
AH...
H. HELLO.
YOU— YOU KNOW MY NAME—!?
HOW!?
I HEARD HANYUU-SAN SAY "HAYASHINO-SAN, COME HERE."

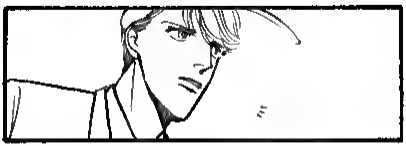

AH... ERRR... WELL... I'M HAYASHINO MAMI FROM CLASS B.
I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU IN THE MATCH DO YOUR BEST
BUT I WON'T BE PLAYING
THAT'S FINE,
LOOKING AT YOU IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
WEIRDO
AH— HE REMEMBERED ME—
I did it.


I TALKED WITH HIM I REALLY DID!
I KNOW, I KNOW
HE REMEM-BERS MY NAME
BUT, MAMI, YOU SHOULD QUIT GOING AFTER HIM.
QUIT...?
WHY?


THERE'S A RUMOR THAT IN 10TH GRADE HE RECEIVED A LOVE LETTER AND HE THREW IT AWAY RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER.
HANDSOME AS HE IS, HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN GIRLS.
Too bad
DOES THAT MEAN I'M SPECIAL?!
WHAT'S UP, MEGU? YOU LOOK SO NERVOUS.
Imagination!
It's just your imagination!
That's great!
CUT DOWN ON THE CHATTER!
BUT WELL, HE REMEMBERED ME.
IF IT'S ABOUT THE MATCH, SEIJOU HIGH WILL CERTAINLY WIN
I'M WORRIED


8
ALRIGHT, GO FOR IT!


AMEN
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US!?
KAIDAI
KAIDAI
9




WELL, WELL. YOU FINALLY APPEARED.

Piiiii


FALL IN!
WHY IS THE COACH SO RELAXED?
10
IT LOOKS LIKE HE THINKS THAT HE WON'T LOSE.


IT'S BETTER THAN RUNNING AWAY.
clack
SNAP
WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR HAND?
WELL WHAT!?
WELL

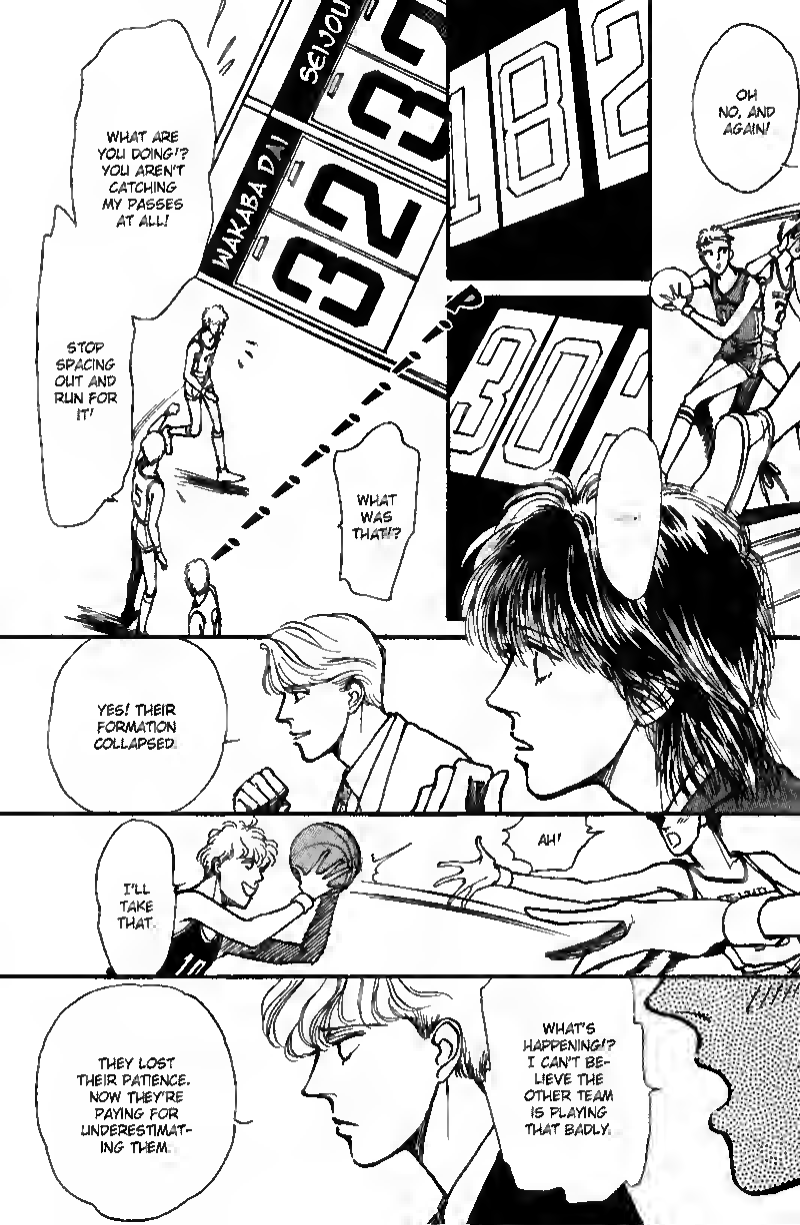

HE KICKED ME OFF THE ROSTER
!
whack
YOU'RE LACKING RESPONSIBILITY AS A PLAYER
HE'S TALKATIVE...
WHY WAS HE STARING AT ME?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS. ANYWAY, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M PLAYING TONIGHT
THAT'S NO GOOD.
FUMP
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!?
YEAH, SO WHAT!?

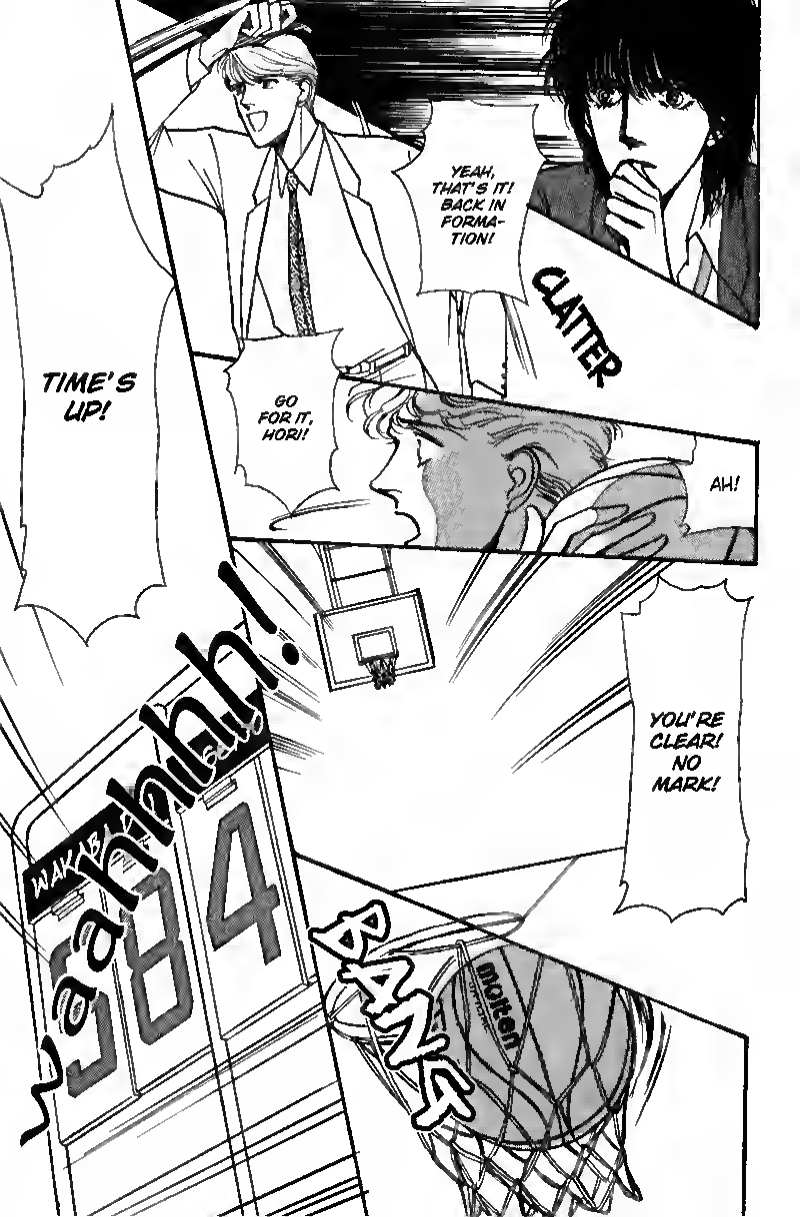

I REALLY DO FEEL BETTER. I'M SURPRISINGLY CALM.
PIIIIII
NAH, 5, 6... 7, 8...
—10 TIMES
THAT'S ENOUGH
IT'S STRANGE
HMPH
I BET YOU WANT TO HIT ME TWO OR THREE TIMES
EVERYTHING TRAPPED IN MY HEART COMES OUT
IT'S BECAUSE IN FRONT OF KANAKO..
HEY, TAKATOU, YOU'RE GOOD IN A FIGHT, RIGHT?
THAT'S THE TRUTH COACH, I REALLY WANT YOU TO LOOK BACK AT ME


WOULD YOU CHALLENGE HIM?
IF YOUR RIVAL WAS A PRO-BOXER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WAKABA DAI
SEIJOU
10
2
THAT WAS A STUPID QUESTION. YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF YOUR OLD SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THAT.
NO WAY ...
THAT'S SUICIDE.
I KNOW A PRO-BOXER. EVERYONE RELIED ON HIM WHENEVER THERE WAS A FIGHT.
BUT, NOBODY GOT CLOSE TO HIM.
HE WAS SO STRONG THAT NOBODY WAS ENOUGH AT EASE WITH HIM TO BECOME HIS FRIEND.


TO THESE GUYS. YOU LOOK LIKE THAT PRO-BOXER
TIME OUT.
LISTEN! NUMBER 5 AND 7 OF THE RIVAL TEAM ARE A COMBINATION THEY ALWAYS ASSIST EACH OTHER
IF NUMBER 5 PASSES, IT'S GOING TO BE TO NUMBER 7
ALSO, NUMBER 9 IS LEFT-HANDED. PAY ATTENTION AND CUT IN FROM THE LEFT SIDE.
HORI, MARK NUMBER 8. HE LOSES HIS PATIENCE EASILY. BLOCK HIM UNTIL HE'S ANNOYED, AND THEN HE'LL MAKE A MISTAKE. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT
WELL, THAT'S THEIR LIMIT.

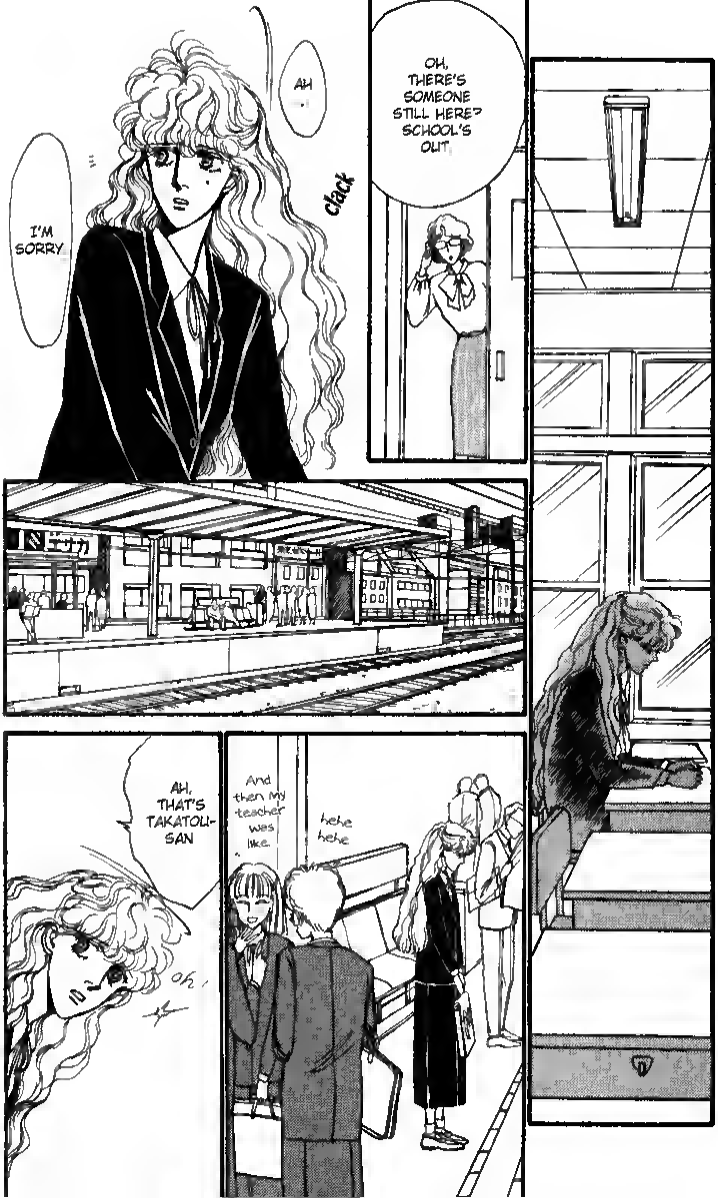

RIGHT THEN, ALL OF YOU COME IN FROM THE CENTER IN A SWIFT ATTACK. BEAT THEM THERE!
FOCUSING ON THEIR OFFENSE MAKES THE TEAM HAVE A WEAK DEFENSE. SO, WHEN NUMBER 7 IS IN POSITION, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. LET HIM SHOOT.
WAIT A MINUTE. HOW CAN HE KNOW SO MUCH!?
PANG
HORI!
THAT'S WHAT COACH SAID, BUT IS HE RIGHT?
Here Mark Number 5
KABADA!
AH, HERE IT COMES.
PANG
!
AH, UEHARA INTERCEPTED IT! THAT WAS GREAT.
WOW, I INTERCEPTED THE BALL!


WAKABA DAI
SEIJOU
32
32
182
30
OH NO, AND AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? YOU AREN'T CATCHING MY PASSES AT ALL!
STOP SPACING OUT AND RUN FOR IT!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
YES! THEIR FORMATION COLLAPSED.
AH!
I'LL TAKE THAT.
10
WHAT'S HAPPENING!? I CAN'T BELIEVE THE OTHER TEAM IS PLAYING THAT BADLY.
THEY LOST THEIR PATIENCE. NOW THEY'RE PAYING FOR UNDERESTIMATING THEM.


YEAH, THAT'S IT! BACK IN FORMATION!
CLATTER
GO FOR IT, HORI!
AH!
TIME'S UP!
YOU'RE CLEAR! NO MARK!
WAKB
384
Yahh!
SWISH
molten

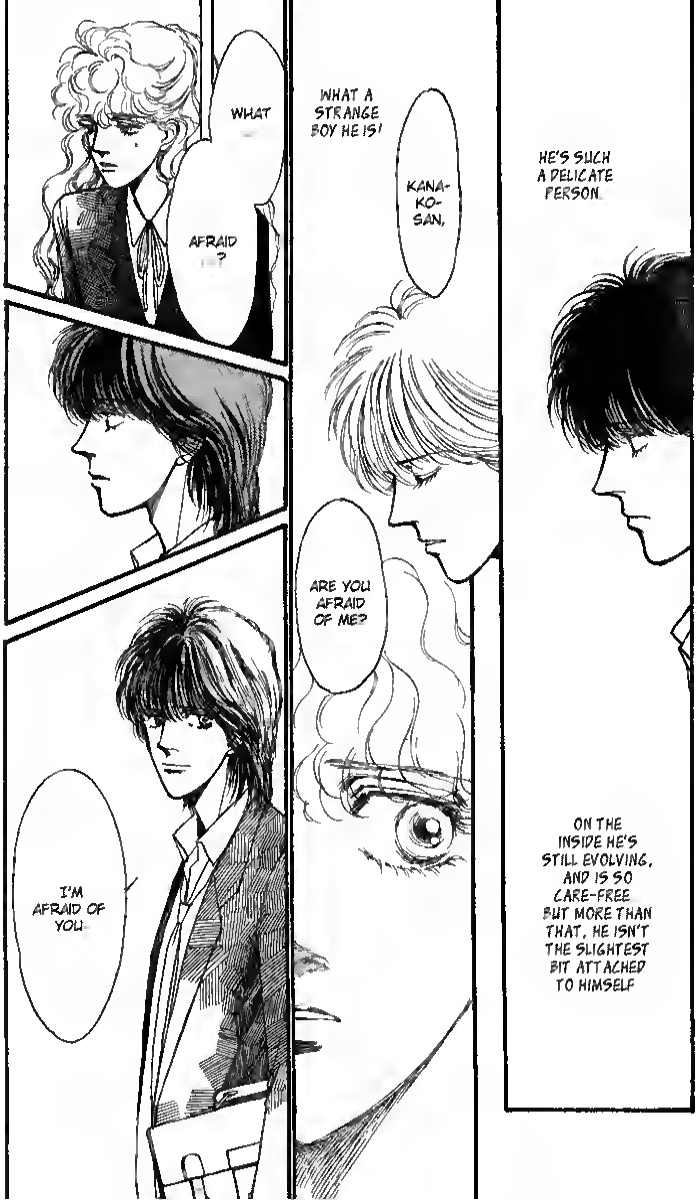

I'LL LEAVE THE COURT TO YOU
MEGU—
HOW WAS THAT? THE BOY'S CLUB IS ALSO PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
WOAHHH
CLAP CLAP
YOU HEARD THAT, TAKATOU?
FROM NOW ON, WE CAN PRACTICE WHENEVER WE WANT


Ah, I can't believe it!
dap
dap
YOU GUYS DID IT. NOW I SEE YOU ALL IN A NEW LIGHT.
JOLT
TAKA-TOU!
SERVES YOU RIGHT! WE WON.
YOU SEE, WE COULD DO IT!
YEAH... I'M REALLY SUR-PRISED.
..HATS OFF TO YOU.


OH, THERE'S SOMEONE STILL HERE? SCHOOL'S OUT.
clack
AH...
I'M SORRY.
AH, THAT'S TAKATOU-SAN
oh!
And then my teacher was like.
hehe hehe

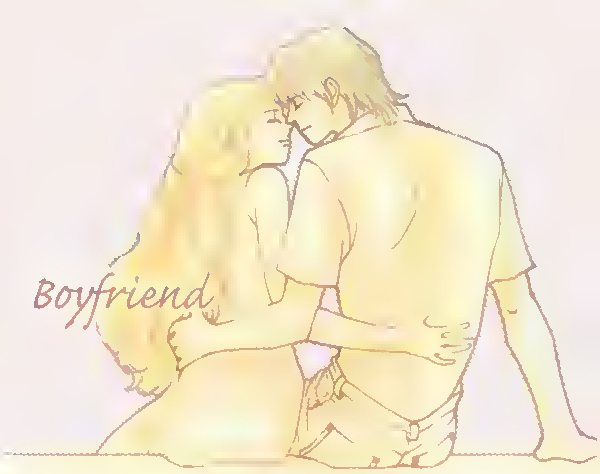

WE WON.
Hey!
HOW WAS THE GAME!? SINCE YOU DIDN'T PLAY WE DIDN'T GO WATCH.
Takatou-senpai
EH!?
YOU WERE PLAYING!?
AH, YOUR HAND'S INJURED.
NO, I WAS OUT.
Ah, the train's arrived
What happened!?
!


IT WAS TOO NOISY. GIRLS ARE ALL ANNOYING.
YOU NEVER MIND HOW GIRLS THINK ABOUT YOU.
—I THOUGHT YOU RODE ON ANOTHER CAR.
HE HASN'T REALIZED THAT EVERYONE IS ATTRACTED TO HIM.
HUH!?


HE'S SUCH A DELICATE PERSON.
ON THE INSIDE HE'S STILL EVOLVING, AND IS SO CARE-FREE BUT MORE THAN THAT, HE ISN'T THE SLIGHTEST BIT ATTACHED TO HIMSELF
KANA-KO-SAN,
WHAT A STRANGE BOY HE IS!
ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?
I'M AFRAID OF YOU.
WHAT
AFRAID ?


I'M HAPPY CLOSING MYSELF OFF FROM UNSTABLE THINGS.
BUT YOU'RE GRADUALLY GETTING IN... IT'S SCARY
TAKATOU-KUN...!?
THE SAME YEAR
TAP
CLUNK
!


THE SAME CLASS, THE SAME TRAIN
CLUNK
IT'S OK. I'LL SEE YOU OFF
TAKATOU-KUN, IT'S YOUR STATION YOU HAVE TO GET OFF
YOUR GENTLE-NESS
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A CO-INCIDENCE OR AN IL-LUSION
I LIKE YOU
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2



SHANNEN **N**

ALLAN **TAN-TAM**

ER **SHILENE**

IT **DLORI**

OC **KALENDEL**

Storm in Heaven